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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-224 *21 November 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Lebanese Paper Reveals Proposed Syrian-Israeli Accord

NC1811183794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The pro-Syrian Lebanese newspaper AL-SHARQ says that Syria and Israel will sign a peace agreement within four months if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gives positive replies to the Syrian proposals during his visit to the United States.

In an article published today, the newspaper reveals the two sections of the proposed agreement. The first section concerns the details of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and how it will be done. The second section deals with the designation of a security zone on the borders between Syria-and Israel and the balanced deployment of buffer troops on both sides of the borders.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Nov

NC1811123094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Authorities Arrest University Students
2. Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested
3. Writer Urges Action Against Partition of al-Ibrahimi Mosque
4. Egypt's Move To Join Arab Maghreb Union Analyzed
5. Article Calls For Lifting Sanctions Against Iraq
6. Writer Argues Natural Disasters Punishment for Wrongdoing

Authorities Arrest University Students

An approximately 1,550-word report on pages 1 and 6 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid indicates that Egyptian universities in the "past few days" were the scene of "massive" student demonstrations and conferences to denounce the security forces' "flagrant" intervention in student elections. The report says the authorities also deleted names of Islamic trend candidates from election lists in the Universities of Cairo, Alexandria, al-Mansurah, 'Ayn Shams, al-Fayyum, and other universities.

The report adds that Cairo University students did achieve "a historic victory" for the student movement by halting student elections in the university according to a legal order.

Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested

An unattributed 400-word report on pages 1 and 6 says the security agencies recently launched a "new campaign" of arrests among Muslim Brotherhood members. The report adds that six Brotherhood members were arrested in Port Said. They were among 17 people who were questioned by the prosecution office and released afterward. The report gives the names of six others who were arrested by the security authorities.

Writer Urges Action Against Partition of al-Ibrahimi Mosque

In his 1,500-word column on page 5, Mustafa Mashhur discusses the recent flood disaster in Upper Egypt and lessons to be drawn from it. He also denounces Israel's partitioning of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the West Bank.

He asks if those who "violate God's injunctions and disobey him have ever contemplated their fate after the day of judgment when they will be housed in hell, where their skins will be fried in the fire."

Commenting on Israel's acts in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the West Bank, he says the measures to normalize relations with Israel and establish diplomatic relations with it are being conducted under pressure from the United States and the West. He asks: "How can we be dragged into what humiliates and harms us and destroys our future and into what is against the wishes of our Islamic nations, which sense their responsibility to Palestine and its holy sites?"

He contends that Israel's opening and partitioning of the al- Ibrahimi Mosque constitutes arrogance, repression, and recklessness by Israel "in this humiliating Arab situation." He adds: "Therefore we warn Arab and Islamic countries against keeping silent about this evil act. They must insist on the enemy's withdrawal from the mosque. We further urge our Arab and Islamic countries to revoke any accords with this malicious enemy."

Egypt's Move To Join Arab Maghreb Union Analyzed

Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah writes a 900-word report on page 6 about the foundation, objectives, and policies of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and recent differences among its member states.

He says: "Amid these circumstances and signs of the AMU's weakness came Egypt's sudden move with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's participation in the AMU's 16th ministerial meeting and the announcement by Algeria, chairman of the current session, that it received Egypt's request to join the union. He adds that there is security cooperation between Egypt and Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania. The cooperation with Algeria is intense, as Algerian officers are being trained "here" and Egyptians are being sent "there" to combat armed operations in Islamic universities in Algeria. He goes on

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to say that the leader of the Algerian Socialist Front has opposed this cooperation with Egypt and France.

The report says: "The Portuguese president's recent visit to Egypt and the intense contacts with the EU's southern states—Italy and France—are signs that Europe prefers Egypt joining the AMU for further cooperation toward curbing the active Islamic trend in the region."

Article Calls For Lifting Sanctions Against Iraq

Page 7 of AL-SHA'B features an approximately 1,250-word article by Majdi Ahmad Husayn, who comments on President Husni Mubarak's latest speech at a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on themes such as opposition parties, free elections, and Arab reconciliation.

Criticizing Mubarak's stance on these issues, he says the president insisted on blocking any measure aimed at ensuring fair and democratic elections. He adds that the opposition parties are denied access to television and radio.

Touching on Arab reconciliation, he says that the true nucleus that strengthens Egypt is its relations with Libya and Sudan, without which Egypt cannot move into the broader Arab arena.

Commenting on UN sanctions against Iraq, he says Egypt, Arabs, and Muslims should have their own accounts and that the Arab governments led by Egypt are required to immediately lift the blockade on Iraq now that Kuwait has been recognized. He adds that Arab nations are required to exercise all forms of pressure on Arab rulers to end the blockade on Iraq.

The author says that the Egyptian Government should go beyond talk about Arab reconciliation into implementation and establishing trade and economic ties with Iraq, which "withdrew from Kuwait three years ago and recognized it."

Writer Argues Natural Disasters Punishment for Wrongdoing

Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh writes on page 12 an approximately 1,500-word article entitled "Natural Disasters or Divine Messages?" in which he discusses the recent floods that swept Upper Egypt and a previous earthquake from a religious point of view. He contends that the recent floods and previous disasters are divine messages for us, not mere natural phenomena. He adds: "I write these words for many reasons: to enhance our nation's beliefs and in the hope that God will enlighten our leaders so that they will revert to the right path."

He says: "These disasters that we have suffered in recent years are definitely messages for us. We believe these messages carry two meanings at the same time: punishment and warning. A punishment against us for acts being committed in this country that anger God and prompt his indignation. They also are a warning for us to wake up and turn to God."

Listing the reasons for the "punishment," the author says that "we" annulled God's law; allowed money plundering, bribery, and corruption to spread everywhere; and left the blood of policemen and Islamic group youths to flow while "wisdom and duty dictated" the stemming of this blood by responding to Muslim ulema's mediation efforts "that were nipped in the bud and because of which the former interior minister was sacked."

Continuing the list, he says "we" halted the duty of jihad against "the Zionist enemy who usurped holy Palestine" and we declared that the 1973 war was the last "while jihad is a duty until the day of judgment." Not only that, he adds, "we" also conspired and fought against the mujahidin. He says: "There is enough evidence in this regard in reports of coordination between us and the Zionist enemy against what they dub terrorism. What we did to a young man, who responded to the duty of jihad and went to occupied Palestine as a fighter, warrior, and martyr along with his brothers there, is enough. What we did against his family, brothers, and friends and against the street and the neighborhood where he lived is enough."

He asks that after committing all these "sins and wrongdoings," could the recent floods and previous disasters be mere natural phenomena or were they "truly divine omens and heaven's punishment against the people of the earth."

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on PLO Police-Hamas Clash, Reaction

Preliminary Investigation Carried Out

JN1811121194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid from the "Midday Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The preliminary investigation carried out by the Palestinian police on the incident that took place in Filastin Mosque in Gaza says that scores or hundreds of elements of the opposition movements—the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—tried to demonstrate following Friday prayers. The Palestinian police prevented them from doing so. Bullets were then fired at the police and stones and empty bottles were hurled at them. The police opened fire to disperse the demonstrators, and two people were killed and more than 20 others were injured.

The injured were moved by ambulances to al-Shifa' and al-Ahli Hospitals in Gaza city. The Palestinian police are

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present in huge numbers in the area, and they are trying to restore order and calm to the city. There is much tension in Gaza city.

Clandestine Report on "Arafatist Crime'

JN1811121594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following from the steadfast Gaza Strip:

Al-Quds Radio correspondents have reported that two to four people were martyred at the hands of 'Arafat's police, who fired at the worshipers at the entrance of the Filastin Mosque in Gaza at noon today. Our correspondents also reported that more than 60 citizens were also wounded.

Our correspondents said that two to four of our people, who were saying prayers at the Filastin Mosque in Gaza, fell as heroic martyrs and more than 60 citizens were wounded by the bullets of 'Arafat's police at noon today.

In this new crime, 'Arafat's police fired indiscriminately at worshipers at the Filastin Mosque, who were staging a demonstration. In this demonstration, our heroic people were condemning the arrest campaign carried out by 'Arafat's police.

Al-Quds Radio correspondents said: When our people learned about this 'Arafatist crime, large-scale clashes erupted and hundreds of our heroic people attacked 'Arafat's police while shouting: Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar [God is Great]. Our correspondents said that severe tension is prevails throughout the Gaza Strip, which is in revolt.

Al-Quds Radio correspondents confirm that there was no armed clash, but the massacre and shooting were premeditated. Our correspondents said that the confrontations erupted following the shooting as a natural reaction to this massacre.

PA Imposes Curfew on Gaza

TA1811131694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has clamped a curfew on the city of Gaza, for the first time since the establishment of the autonomy, following clashes between the Palestinian police and thousands of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad supporters which resulted in the death of two and the wounding of 60-90 people. Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen quote Gazans as saying that sounds of gunshots can still be heard in the city.

Yasir 'Arafat summoned his senior advisers to an urgent session. Disagreements reportedly emerged between the participants over the question of how to deal with the extremist Islamic organizations.

Labor Party Secretary Nisim Zvili says that the events in Gaza show that 'Arafat has begun to realize that the extremist groups threaten the PA's status.

Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi suggests that Israel's security forces take lessons from the Palestinian police on how to deal with demonstrating Arabs.

Al-Tamimi: Incidents To Hamper Peace

NC1811134394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 18 Nov (MENA)—Ahmad Sa'id al-Tamimi, official in charge of Foreign Ministry affairs in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestinians is facing difficulty in implementation as a result of the stubbornness of the Israeli side, which is deliberately placing obstacles in the way.

In an exclusive interview with MENA today, he said that the level of good intentions, whether from the donor countries or the Israeli side, is not high enough. This puts the PNA in a difficult position before its people.

He added that if this situation continues, the word "peace" will become meaningless and the voice of the unbelievers will become stronger. This will harm the interests of those calling for peace in the region and the world.

Mr. al-Tamimi accused Israel of being responsible for this situation. As a result of its current policy to stall and not show any good intentions, Israel is violating the agreement and creating instabilities for the PNA, rendering it incapable of controlling the situation.

He said that despite all these obstacles created by Israel, the PNA has succeeded in a short time in accomplishing a great deal on the security and social levels. It has aborted the hopes for and predictions of a civil war among the Palestinians because our people—leadership and masses—realize the significance and dangers of this stage. Israel should also realize that stability and peace cannot be established by creating obstacles.

Regarding the opposition, the Palestinian official said that it is natural for there to be opinions and counteropinions. We are a democratic people and the important thing is for us to work together despite our differences of opinion, al-Tamimi said. We must work on strengthening the dialogue among all our groups. It is not necessary for us to agree about everything, but it is important to avoid partition.

He talked about the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. He said: Israel is blackmailing us through these detainees and we do not accept such measures. We stand alongside our brothers in Israeli prisons. We shall not bargain over them and will continue to negotiate with the Israeli side through our national conviction so that all these detainees are released.

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With regard to those who have been detained by the PNA recently, he said it is out of their concern that the liberated areas be stable and not to give the Israeli side the opportunity to exploit the situation in the region.

Al-Tamimi affirmed that Israel is primarily responsible for the instability in the liberated areas. He accused Israel of being behind the assassination of the Palestinian journalist Hani 'Abid this month. Its objective was to put the PNA in an embarrassing situation. It knows that he belongs to a faction that might seek revenge for his death.

The official in charge of Foreign Ministry affairs at the PNA called on all the factions to cooperate with it and work to overcome this difficult stage and not give Israel the opportunity to do any damage.

He asked Israel whether it really wanted stability in the region. If so, it should give the PNA the chance to take control of everything without exception. It should also start withdrawing its settlements from the Palestinian territories because they will only bring instability to all parties.

Al-Tamimi compared conditions in the liberated areas with those of the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Jerusalem. He said that there is no basis for comparison. The suffering continues there, the excesses are many, and the martyrs are still falling every day. He asked Israel to respect the Declaration of Principles and to work toward transferring those responsibilities specified in the agreement over to the PNA instead of creating obstacles so that measures can be taken to start elections in the West Bank. An agreement was previously reached that these elections should take place in July of 1994.

He condemned the Israeli violations at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron on the West Bank, the harassment of the Arab citizens of Jerusalem, and the killing of innocent people. He noted the martyrdom of his brother, Nidal Sa'id al-Tamimi, who was killed last month by Israeli soldiers. After his death, 60 bullets were fired into his body for revenge and because of fanaticism. Unfortunately, despite the occupation's knowledge about all these violations, it does not lift a finger. It has even found unacceptable justifications, as we have always known it to do.

Casualties Updated

TA1811141894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority has clamped a curfew on the city of Gaza, and Yasir 'Arafat has summoned the National Security Supreme Council to discuss the situation.

Four people, including a policeman, were killed and approximately 90 people, including 10 policemen, were wounded in the clashes between the Palestinian police and supporters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad at noon today. Sources in the Gaza Strip reported that the Palestinian police arrested hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters.

It has been learned from hospitals in the Gaza Strip that some of the wounded are in serious condition, and the population is being urged to donate blood.

Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen report that four vehicles belonging to the Palestinian police were torched in the clashes, including a car transporting a wounded policeman. Three Hamas activists opened fire at the car, and when its passengers fled, they smashed its windows and set it on fire.

Israeli Deputy Minister Walid Sadiq expressed profound sorrow over the events in Gaza and told our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha that he will go to the Gaza Strip tomorrow morning at the head of a delegation of Israeli Arabs in order to help soothe tempers and iron out the differences among the various factions.

'Militant' Group Plans Attacks

NC1811143994 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov 18 (AFP)—An Islamic militant group has formed a 70-member squad to carry out suicide attacks against Israeli troops in Palestinian self-rule areas, an official for the group said in remarks published Friday [18 November].

"Attacks will continue in the autonomous zones" of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, an official for the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, told the Saudi daily AL-HAYAH in Damascus.

Al-Shaqaqi linked "an end to armed action in Gaza to the dismantling of Israeli settlements so that we feel a real Palestinian authority.

"If this condition is fulfilled, our suicide actions will move to other areas," he added.

"The Jihad does not want to poison relations with the Palestinian Authority. They don't want to and we don't either," he said.

Last week the Jihad claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli soldiers near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip police opened fire on stone throwers outside a mosque on Friday killing two Palestinians and wounding 80, hospital doctors said.

A Gaza policeman was shot dead and 10 more wounded by bullets in the clash, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

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It was the first incident in which Palestinian police fired directly on stone throwers.

Clandestine Radio Blames Police

JN1811151594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brethren strugglers, we have just received the following: Our heroic people have denied reports fabricated by 'Arafatists that our citizens were carrying arms during the march [in Gaza]. The march was staged from the al-'Umari mosque to hold a celebration at the house of martyr Hisham Hamad. None of our people were carrying any firearms or cold steel.

Al-Quds Radio correspondents in the rebellious [Gaza] strip say that even after the massacre not a single bullet was fired by our people, who only used Molotov cocktails and stones to express their indignation at this 'Arafatist crime.

Regarding the policeman who was killed during the clashes, our correspondents say it is not ruled out that this policeman was killed by the fire of the police, who were shooting indiscriminately. Our correspondents confirm that not a single bullet was fired by the citizens against the policemen.

In a pretext frequently used by Zionists, 'Arafatist sources said the shooting came after the lives of 'Arafat's police were in danger. This is exactly how the Zionist military spokesman has always justified its crimes against our kinsfolk.

Number of Casualities Rises

TA1811151794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from hospitals in Gaza that eight people died in the clashes between the Palestinian police and supporters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. Approximately 150 people were wounded in the clashes, including 10 Palestinian policemen. Earlier it was reported that the fatalities included a Palestinian policeman, but Palestinian Authority [PA] sources say the man was not killed but seriously wounded. A curfew was clamped on the city of Gaza, and the Palestinian police arrested hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters.

Hundreds of relatives of the casualties and the detainees demonstrated this afternoon opposite al-Shifa' Hospital and Gaza's central prison. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that clashes continue at this hour near the prison and in the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood.

Palestinian sources say Yasir 'Arafat placed the responsibility for the incidents on Hamas and ordered a firm hand in dealing with Islamic extremists. During the clashes, Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters voiced harsh words against 'Arafat, accused him of treason, and demanded that he leave the Gaza Strip. A Palestinian who was wounded in the clashes said the PA is worse than the Israelis and must be replaced by another government.

Police Issue Statement

JN1811154694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Statement issued by "a Palestinian police source" on 18 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Friday [18 November] noon prayers at Filastin Mosque today, a group of renegades—incited by external quarters—carrying loudspeakers and hostile banners, suddenly opened fire on some policemen who were deployed in that place, leaving one policeman martyred and 10 wounded.

The statement went on: Subsequently, police had to reinforce in the place of the incident, and arrested a number of those involved in the incident. The sound of shooting continued to be heard.

The statement concluded by warning this renegade group against attempting to tamper with the public order or the security of the people and the homeland.

A Palestinian political source reacting to the regrettable incidents that took place at noon today in Gaza told the Palestinian News Agency: The aim is to drag us into infighting and to discredit us, as well as to demonstrate that the Palestinian people have not matured and that they cannot establish their national authority. The Palestinian source held the misguided group responsible for preparing and hiding weapons in mosques to use them against the struggler members of the Palestinian police and the struggler Palestinian organizations. The same source asked: In whose interest were two cars belonging to the Palestinian police torched and fired at? Are mosques the place for the faithful to be in with their weapons? The Palestinian source called for all efforts to be dedicated to Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state.

Following is the full text of the statement from the Palestinian News Agency's political editor:

Brothers: Here is what the Palestinian News Agency's political editor wrote: Under the heading "Discipline is a Must", the editor writes: The aim is to drag us into infighting and discredit us and to attempt to make the point that the Palestinian people have not matured, and that they cannot establish their authority and control the beat of their social rhythm under a national and democratic government. What do these factions want when the Authority has done all it could to engage them in dialogue and extended to them [word indistinct] so that together they build this homeland, part of which has been freed of occupation and the remainder of which remains shackled, waiting for what the peaceful process and the negotiations and the second stage and other

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developments may produce? We ask: Have all these sacrifices been made and blood shed and the long militant march and the confrontation undertaken so we may stand in confrontation against one another and that we may turn away from occupation to fight among ourselves and preoccupy ourselves with each other? Is that jihad? Are the mosques meant for God and prayers, or for sedition? Are they hiding places for weapons to kill struggler members of the police and members of militant Palestinian organizations? We do not want to discuss how the terrible incident began in a Palestinian mosque. However, we would like to know how two cars belonging to the Palestinian police were torched and bullets were fired at members of that force, unless there was a premeditated intention and prior planning. Do the faithful go to the mosque with their weapons unless there is a (?third) party that sets off the whole thing? Probable as that possibility may be, it could not have led to things turning out the way they did, unless the members of these factions had armed themselves, prepared, and planned in advance, and then set off to spread chaos and violence and to burn buildings and attack commercial premises.

Self-restraint is a must. As far as we know, the Palestinian Authority is exercising restraint that only those seasoned in facing difficulties and tribulations can cope with. Thus, these factions and those who get carried away behind them, must exercise restraint in order to contain the regrettable incidents and to stem the violence that can only hurt the Palestinian people, who have suffered and continue to suffer from the tragic effects of occupation. Restraint is a must. There should be obedience of the National Authority.

We call on all parties to protect and build this homeland so that we may pursue the march of action and construction in order for us to become more secure and to give hope to our children and the next generations. There are still major opportunities to be seized. People who squander their opportunities and are held captive to ignorance and darkness do not deserve life. Our Palestinian people will not allow darkness and ignorance to control or rule them or hinder their march to build their national authority. They must dedicate all the efforts to Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state.

DFLP, Islamic Jihad View Clashes

JN1811160794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine have condemned the bloody confrontations that took place today in Gaza between Palestinian police and demonstrators, in which eight people, including a policemen, were killed and another 150 people were injured.

In two separate statements, the DFLP and the Islamic Jihad Movement called on Palestinian policemen to avoid the use of arms in the face of their brethren. They cautioned against the outbreak of a civil war.

In its statement, the DFLP said this painful incident is a serious signal of what the administrative rule authority could do in confronting the burgeoning people's opposition. For its part, the Islamic Jihad Movement described the confrontations between the policemen and pro-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demonstrators, after Friday prayers at the Filastin mosque in Gaza, as an appalling crime. It condemned the behavior of the Palestinian police, adding that the police are terrorizing people.

'Arafat Presides Over Emergency Meeting

JN1811162094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1535 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the National Authority, performed prayers today at the Salim Abu-Musallam mosque in Bayt Lahiyah. In his sermon, the preacher underlined the importance of cooperation, cohesion, and unity at this important juncture for the sake of building the Palestinian state, establishments, and economy.

The preacher emphasized the importance of self-reliance and the need not to wait for assistance and funds from the donor nations. He appealed to everybody to adhere to national unity and remain alert in order to foil enemy attempts to sow sedition among the sonsof the Palestinian people.

Attending the prayers with President 'Arafat were Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, minister of housing; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Salam Abu-Shukhaydim; Shaykh Fayiz al-Aswad, known as Abu-'Abdallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions; and a number of senior officers and military officials.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat is currently presiding over an emergency meeting of the Higher Security Council of the National Authority in the presence of the leaders of the security organs. The meeting is held in the aftermath of the clashes fabricated by spiteful renegade factions against the Palestinian police centers in the city of Gaza.

Incident First 'Regrettable Confrontation'

JN1811164094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1525 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first regrettable confrontation between the Palestinian police and some armed elements occurred in Gaza after Friday prayers today. These elements opened fire during a demonstration which began at the Filastin Mosque after the Friday prayers. A policeman was martyred, 10 others were wounded, and two police vehicles were set ablaze.

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The Palestinian police had to reply to the sources of shooting, killing two gunmen and wounding others. We are trying to contact our correspondent in Gaza, who was at the scene.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified announcer] Good evening, Muhammad [al-Sabbah]. You were at the scene of events in Gaza today?

[Radio correspondent Muhammad al-Sabbah] Yes.

[Announcer] How did these events begin?

[Al-Sabbah] They began after the end of Friday prayers today when dozens of demonstrators who came out of the Filastin Mosque raised posters hostile to the Palestinian Authority [PA] and chanted slogans against the PA. Naturally, they tried to evoke riots among the worshipers. This naturally prompted the security men to ask them to disperse and go home peacefully. However, the demonstrators replied by firing bullets from the mosque and a nearby house.

[Announcer] Among the worshipers were gunmen who opened fire on the Palestinian police?

[Al-Sabbah] Yes, this was what I saw.

[Announcer] The police replied by opening fire?

[Al-Sabbah] Yes, the police opened fire in the air.

[Announcer] What was the number of those killed or wounded?

[Al-Sabbah] A policeman was martyred, and 10 others were wounded.

[Announcer] Was a curfew imposed on the city of Gaza?

[Al-Sabbah] It has not yet been imposed. I do not know whether it will be imposed or not. I do not think so.

[Announcer] How is the situation in Gaza now?

[Al-Sabbah] The situation in Gaza is calm permeated with tension.

[Announcer] Muhammad al-Sabbah, thank you. If details are available, please provide them to us. [end recording]

'Alien Elements' Said Behind Violence

JN1811164594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Gaza—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers, the scene is strange and surprising. The scene is paradoxical and surprising. It also raises many questions. Actually, there are two scenes: The first is in Bayt Lahiyah, where President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was on his way to perform the Friday prayers. Here, the skies were clear and the sea was calm. The sun was spreading warmth and inspiring hope in the hearts of the citizens. Abu-'Ammar's surprise visit to Bayt Lahiyah made the people flock to the spot to greet him and express their love and sense of belonging. There were not many policemen on the spot. Abu-'Ammar likes to remain in touch with the people, and the people love him.

How can we compare that scene with the other scene at the Filastin Mosque in Gaza, where the forces of darkness and alien elements transformed the mosque square and ambience into a real battlefield? Love and hate cannot be reconciled. The people cannot be two peoples. Consequently, there must have been intruders who sought to instigate others. This intruder came forcefully and violently with a hellish, well-thought-out scheme. This is because the people can never shift from one extreme to the other. The intruders must have done something to instigate the people and the worshipers. They have spread killing and bloodshed and started to shout slogans as if they had been done an injustice.

Those who did this cannot be Palestinian citizens. They can never be strugglers or mujahdidin, or even half-citizens who care for the blood of this people, which sacrificed its lives in greater confrontations and raised the name of the homeland, Palestine, over flags and banners.

Abu-'Ammar was in Bayt Lahiyah listening to sweet songs and receiving the love of the people, their support, and blesses. Here in Gaza near Filastin Mosque, weapons were hidden inside turbans and inside minds that are full of ignorance and black thoughts. Afterward, instigation campaigns started and moved to something more terrible, to shooting policemen and setting their vehicles ablaze. In the meantime, in Bayt Lahiyah, Abu-'Ammar was receiving the people and they were eagerly receiving him. They were expressing their feelings and he was showing his concern about their problems. He allocated $20,000 for them to build a road. Others were on the mosque front, armed with weapons and Molotov cocktails. Their aim was to demolish, burn, and destroy.

The equation is incomprehensible. One thing, however, makes us understand, or come close to understanding, namely, that what happened today around the Filastin Mosque in Gaza was a plot against the Palestinians and a dagger to slaughter us.

While Abu-'Ammar was being accorded a warm reception in Bayt Lahiyah, he was also the target of a dagger trying to stab him near the Filastin Mosque. We have the two scenes before our eyes. We cannot believe the two scenes are the work of one people. The hand of treachery and darkness must have instigated part of this people.

Blood Needed for Wounded

JN1811171894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1658 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, brother heroes, our kinsfolk in the steadfast Gaza strip, the

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al-Quds Radio staff—the Palestinian Arab radio on the road of the liberation of land and man—appeals to all people of honor in Gaza and the steadfast strip to hurry and make blood donations. There are scores of wounded in hospital corridors who need blood, with the lives of some of them depending on donations from caring people. Let none of us delay in donating blood on this day, the day of the 'Arafatist massacre, the sad Friday [18 November].

God be with us, and victory is at hand. Together on the road to the liberation of land and man.

'Arafat Reportedly Forced To 'Flee'

JN1811174694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, in an urgent news report from the periphery of 'Arafat's headquarters, al-Quds radio correspondents said that 'Arafat, leader of the so-called Palestinian Authority, was forced to escape from a back door after his personal guards established an armed security cordon.

In their urgent report, al-Quds radio correspondents added that 'Arafat, supported by secret Zionist units, has managed to flee on board a helicopter to an unknown destination.

DFLP's Hawatimah Blames 'Arafat, Rabin

JN1811180894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hawatimah] The situation in Gaza is on the brink of a full-scale explosion. The DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] has all along warned this would happen. The overwhelming majority of our people in the Gaza Strip oppose the Oslo accord. They are deterimned to see the territory liberated from ongoing occupation, and Jewish settlements, which account for 40 percent of the the Gaza strip area, dismantled. Sadly, the international response to this appeal has been modest. Now the situation is blowing up to prove that the Oslo accord has not brought about security, stability, or peace to our people in the Gaza strip and that it has not found any solutions to its economic and social ills, and that it has not met our people's right to self-determination and the removal of occupation and settlements.

[Salamah] Since the Oslo accord, there has been peaceful coexistence, so to speak, between supporters and opponents of this agreement in the Palestinian arena, but the dissent has not reached the point of factional fighting. What has happened to bring things to this bloody confrontation between the Palestinian Authority and party and popular opponents of the Oslo accord?

[Hawatimah] We are deeply convinced that the fundamental contradiction is between all our people on the one hand and occupation and settlements on the other. Our people, who have been suffering under occupation since 1967, are resolved to achieve self-determination. We call for differences in the Palestinian arena to be resolved through democratic means and a tolerance of dissent. Those who have lost patience with this approach are 'Arafat and his team and his police, who opened fire on the masses at the end of Friday [18 November] prayers. It is now obvious that 'Arafat, under relentless pressure from the Rabin government, wants to liquidate dissent and hit opponents of the ever-weakening Oslo agreement. The dollar showers 'Arafat promised the Palestinian people of Gaza have evaporated and it is now quite clear that there are no forthcoming solutions to the economic and social and political problems. No solutions are in sight for a million people housed on 200 square kilometers. This will be possible only once occupation ends and settlements are removed and the Palestinians are allowed to determine their future. Once again, the responsibility rests with 'Arafat and Rabin, because they want to force the Oslo accord down the throat of our people, using all manner of political, psychological, and police, and repressive force. They cannot succeed in that effort.

Police Blame 'Foreign Quarters'

JN1811182694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian police has stated the following: After performing Friday [18 November] prayers at Filastin Mosque today, renegade groups carrying loudspeakers and hostile posters, and instigated by foreign quarters, suddenly opened fire on the police personnel in that place and burned two police cars. A policeman was martyred and another ten were wounded. This prompted the police to reinforce their presence at the scene of the incident.

A number of them were arrested. We warn this renegade faction against tampering with public order or undermining the security of people and homeland.

A Palestinian police source earlier denied reports by some Western news agencies, which were picked up by Israeli radio. These reports said the Palestinian authorities had authorized a demonstration from Filastin Mosque after Friday prayers. The source said the Israeli radio concentration on the so-called anonymous eyewitnesses incites chaos and reveals a suspect role played by the Israeli radio in today's incidents at Filastin Mosque.

'Ashrawi Fears 'Consequences'

TA1811183694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights, by Yoram Kohen on 18 November; place not given—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Kohen] Mrs. 'Ashrawi, how do you view today's events in Gaza?

['Ashrawi] In my opinion, this is the red line. Crossing it is an extremely grave thing and a Palestinian taboo. The use of weapons by one Palestinian against another is totally rejected. I appeal to everyone to stop this immediately, to exercise restraint, and to resort to the methods of civilized and responsible dialogue in addressing issues of contention, without such confrontations and without resorting to violence. In my view, this is a grave phenomenon and a very negative indication. It could have destructive consequences for the Palestinian situation.

[Kohen] The Israeli Government has told the Palestinian Authority and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] many times that they must collect weapons from those who do not serve in the Palestinian police.

['Ashrawi] First of all, one should not view these matters so simply. The Gaza-Jericho matter does not signify sovereignty, the exercise of full rights, or the end of a very difficult preparatory period in which there are no rules, bases, or even a cohesive and clear law or clear instructions. This is a stage of preparation and construction. There many problems that must be addressed, in addition to Israeli interference in many issues. The problem cannot be resolved by disarming people. In my opinion, weapons must not serve as a means for resolving differences and disputes.

[Kohen] We saw today's events in Gaza on television. What we saw was very serious and frightening. It reminded me of the civil war in Lebanon.

['Ashrawi] It was a very tragic and sad scene. Of course, it was more than frightening. I hope this is not an indication of any civil war. Civil war could inflict devastation on everyone, not only on the Palestinian people. These acts must be stopped immediately. If this is an indication of the future, it is a grave indication, and a catastrophe will befall everyone. This will be followed by total collapse.

PFLP-GC Blames 'Arafat

JN1811184694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On sad Friday [18 November], a responsible source within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has commented on the Gaza massacre at the hands of 'Arafat and and his authority, by saying:

1. The leaders of the PFLP-GC have on many occasions—the last being the interview with comrade Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general, by AL-WASAT news magazine—that the atmosphere portends a Palestinian civil war, because this is what 'Arafat wants through his alliance with General Rabin.

2. The massacre of sad Friday on 18 November at the Filastin Mosque in Gaza and the indiscriminate shooting at worshipers—old and young—is one in a series of steps to unmask 'Arafat's limited authority, which is, in reality, a tool of Zionist oppression against our people and an extension of the Zionist border guard, Army, and security agencies.

3. Palestinian Arab blood, which has been shed while confronting the Zionist enemy, is now being shed at the hands of 'Arafat, who will not escape the wrath of the masses, their verdict, and punishment.

4. Our Arab masses, throughout the Arab nation, demand the immediate trial of those who gave orders to open fire on the defenseless worshipers as they were leaving God's house.

5. The PFLP-GC warns against 'Arafat's authority's imposition of curfew in Gaza and deems this a prelude to an arrest campaign that will target the activists of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces that opposes the humiliating Oslo agreement. The PFLP-GC holds 'Arafat and his authority responsible for the consequences of any further antagonism of our struggling people.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

[Dated] Sad Friday, 18 November 1994

Hamas Warns Retaliation

JN1811185494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], which held the Palestinian Authority responsible for what it called, in its statement issued in Damascus, a massacre, has said in the same statement that what happened will not pass unpunished. It called on the Palestinian police not to submit to the orders of the Palestinian Authority. Our colleague Salah Salamah has phoned Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, director of Hamas' office in Damascus, to ask him about the circumstances surrounding the Gaza incident today:

[Begin recording] [Mustafa] We reject bloody confrontations. We did not start these confrontations and will never start them. There was a peaceful demonstration that was agreed on and licensed by the Palestinian police. The demonstration was staged from the Filastin mosque after Friday [18 November] prayers. It was set to proceed to the house of martyr Hisham Hamad. The demonstrators called for exposing those who assassinated martyr Hani al-'Abid and to release the prisoners of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It was a peaceful march.

'Arafat's police, however, intercepted it with bullets, which should have been fired at the Zionist enemy and its soldiers, police, and settlers, who are occupying 40 percent of the Gaza Strip.

Therefore, the 'Arafatist police are responsible for these confrontations. We call on them to stop these practices, which serve the Zionist entity. We know that this

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fighting serves the Zionist enemy and there will be no victor or vanquished in it except for the Zionist enemy and we, whether the Palestinian opposition or 'Arafat's police or the signatories to the Washington, Oslo, and Cairo agreements, will be the losers. Our people will be the losers.

As for the elections, Rabin clarified his position on it before he left for Washington. He called on 'Arafat to rescind the clauses of the Palestine National Charter that do not suit Israel—those clauses that advocate armed struggle and the liberation of Palestine—in return for holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Salamah] These confrontations are the first to take place at this level and in this bloody manner in Gaza. What made things reach this point?

[Mustafa] There is no doubt that Hamas condemns and denounces such practices by 'Arafat's police against the armless Palestinian people. It is acting in this manner by proxy for the occupation authorities. On this day, Friday, the day of the massacre of worshipers of Filastin mosque, I recall the Friday dawn massacre at the Ibrahimi mosque, perpetrated by Zionist settlers and soldiers. These massacres have much in common. 'Arafat's police and authority are executing the orders of Rabin, given before his departure for Washington two days ago. He told 'Arafat that in order for him to spread authority in the West Bank, he should suppress the Palestinian opposition, foremost of which being the Islamists of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. This was expected a long time ago, but now is the time for implementation. 'Arafat is targeting Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. He was also assigned to abort the intifadah and the Palestinian opposition to the submissive and treacherous Gaza-Jericho agreement. [end recording]

Hamas Issues Statement on Incidents

JN1811192494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement on the heinous massacre perpetrated by the so-called self-rule authority against our unarmed people in the Gaza Strip. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our mujahid Palestinian people, the so-called self-rule authority has perpetrated a heinous crime against the sons of our people, unarmed worshipers, after Friday prayers at the Filastin mosque in our steadfast strip. 'Arafat's police, in a barbaric way, opened fire with machine guns on the gatherings of innocent worshipers who were planning to stage a demonstration in accordance with a Hamas call to protest the campaigns of repression and oppression, as well as the indiscriminate arrest campaigns carried out by the so-called self-rule authority against the sons of our people and brothers in the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

Our steadfast Palestinian people, as a result of the barbaric killing operations by the so-called self-rule authority, 13 heroes were martyred and more than 200 were wounded. The confrontations are still continuing. This is a new massacre, but at the hands of the so-called self-rule authority, which so far has not given our people anything except campaigns of repression, oppression, the opening of prisons, and the humiliation of citizens. This is a new massacre to be added to the series of hideous massacres perpetrated by the Zionist enemy's occupation forces. However, this time, this massacre was perpetrated by their tools and protectors.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, while extending condolences to the sons of our people and the families of the martyrs and the wounded, would like to stress the following:

1. The Hamas Movement holds the so-called weak self-rule authority fully responsible for this hideous massacre, and denounces this criminal action.

2. These hideous crimes differ in no way from the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist enemy and its treacherous army. This proves the so-called self-rule authority is only a tool for the occupation and a means to achieve its objectives, to strike at the mujahidin, and to torture citizens.

3. The Hamas Movement appeals to honest policemen who are concerned about the sanctity of Palestinian blood not to heed the orders of the so-called self-rule authority and its instructions to strike at the sons of our people and to open fire on them. It calls on all those personnel, soldiers, and officers not to be dragged behind the so-called self-rule authority's plan to ignite a civil war and to wage a battle against the people.

4. This hideous massacre and the repressive measures will increase the anger of the masses of our people and their indignation about the practices of the so-called self-rule authority and its humiliated submission to the will of the occupiers.

5. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, calls for bringing all those who are responsible for this massacre to trial and to mete out the harshest punishment to them. Our people's blood is not cheap. Our people will not allow this abominable crime to pass without punishment.

6. The Hamas Movement calls for the immediate and urgent release of all the detainees from all the mujahid Palestinian factions, who were arrested by the so-called self-rule authority to satisfy terrorist Rabin. The Hamas Movement stresses it will not allow anyone to disdain our people's blood, threaten our unity, and ignite civil war.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas

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Islamic Jihad Assails 'Cowardly Act,' 'Arafat

LD1811191094 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov. 18, IRNA—A Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader said that today's tragic massacre of Friday [18 November] prayer worshippers at Gaza's Falastin mosque, was a Zionist order which PLO's Yasir 'Arafat obediently carried out.

In his contact with the IRNA bureau in Beirut, the Palestinian Muslim leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said by his cowardly act 'Arafat has lost his last popular base in the occupied land.

"Certainly, only the Zionist regime is pleased by 'Arafat's act, which proves that he is a military commander of zionist regime in Gaza", he added.

Rejecting the claim by 'Arafat's police that fire was opened from inside the mosque, he said, none of the worshippers carried any fire arms, rather 'Arafat's policeforce, clad in their uniforms, were clearly visible among the Israeli mercenaries, who turned the Friday prayers into a bloodbath.

Despite efforts made by Palestinian Islamic groups to prevent the outbreak of civil war in Palestine, said the Islamic leader, 'Arafat and his henchmen were trying to plunge the Gaza-Jericho into a civil war by all possible means.

'Arafat is mistaken to think that a civil war would strengthen his cause, because the only beneficiary would be Israel, he said.

'Arafat's policemen opened fire indiscriminately into Muslim worshippers killing 12 worshippers and wounding over 170 others, according to the latest reports from occupied Palestine.

A Palestinian Muslim journalist told the IRNA bureau in Athens by phone from occupied Qods that "accoridng to eye-witnesses, the incident started when the PLO-police officers tried to dismantle loud speakers fixed on vehicles and people were making Takbir (saying Allah-o-Akbar)."

"They are now trying to impose a curfew in Gaza but the people are ignoring the call," said Khalid requesting not to mention his full name due to security reasons.

"As soon as the worshippers said as-Salam Alaykum (finishing the prayers) they opened fire, without any provoction. Nobody threw any stones or anything at the policemen, as claimed by the PLO account."

"This is a massacare actually. It is a mood of disbelief. People could not believe that Palestinians could kill Palestinians and people are making analogies and comparisons with what the Israelis were doing in Gaza," he said.

The Palestinian journalist added that Islamic leaders were "trying to calm the situation and pacify the massive anger generated by this incident."

"The Palestinian Authority is alluding to third parties responsibility for the incident. This is not the case. 'Arafat's policemen were too trigger-happy," the journalist said.

"All people inlcuding those who are considered to be pro-PLO are saying that the PLO was the gulty party," Khalid said.

People went on a rampage and burned down many cinemas and theatres in Gaza. The police were unable to control the crowd.

"The situation is calm now but tense," he added.

Islamic Jihad Official: Crisis in PA

NC1811192894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Telephone report by Muhammad Bishkar in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. A serious security development took place today in Gaza Strip, which is under the Palestinian self-rule Authority [PA]. Palestinian police deliberately opened fire on Palestinian worshipers as they were leaving Filastin Mosque in the city of Gaza after Friday [18 November] prayers. At least two were martyred and over 60 were wounded, some seriously. [passage omitted]

The situation in the Gaza Strip became so tense in the wake of these incidents that serious developments are expected, according to Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, whom we telephoned this afternoon:

[Begin al-Shaqaqi recording] This Authority is in a real crisis. It has finally committed a fatal mistake. Its hands are stained with the blood of the Palestinian people. It is not only giving the enemy security, but it kills the people. I believe that this is a very serious development that threatens a more explosive situation and even a new intifadah against this tyrant authority. [end recording]

As for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], its official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah described what happened as a real massacre. In an exclusive interview with our office, Ghawshah accused 'Arafat of carrying out the Zionist enemy's scheme against the Palestinian people. He said:

[Begin Ghawshah recording] I believe that 'Arafat has to account to the Palestinian people about what happened in that massacre. He has to put those who issued the instructions on trial quickly before the eyes of the Palestinian masses. Unless this happens, I do not believe that emotions or tension will calm down. [end recording]

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Islamic Jihad on Suicide Bombers

LD1811210694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad has announced that it has the ability to confront the atrocities of the Zionist regime from a suicidal battalion. Mr. Fathi Shaqaqi says this battalion consists of 70 martyrdom-seeking combatants that whenever necessary carry out anti-Zionist operations within the self-rule region.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, while ruling out the possibility of having any chance of compromise with Israeli Government, said the fact is that these martyrdom-seeking operations will continue until the liberation of the Zionist occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh: 'Absolutely' No Civil War

NC1811191994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Interview with PA Official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Antoine 'Awn at the MBC Studios in London on 18 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-Rabbuh] It is indeed a regrettable incident. We believe that the Palestinian police were lured into this clash. We absolutely do not expect a civil war. There is a strong awareness of such hazards and provocations among the Palestinian public. We gave clear instructions to the Palestinian police to maintain order in accordance with the law and to avoid being lured into provocations of that kind.

I don't think that today's incident will be repeated. Measures will be adopted to safeguard security on the one hand and to leave no room for a clash on the other.

['Awn] Israel recently asked the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to control the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Movement. Can today's development be interpreted as part of your responsiveness to the Israeli demand?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Absolutely not. Internal Palestinian affairs, where Hamas or others are concerned, is our own business. It is exclusively a Palestinian matter. There are attempts to push Hamas into breaking the law and engaging in a confrontation with the PA. Moreover these attempts come from abroad. We have told Hamas and other parties that they should not pursue such a course.

['Awn] There are Palestinian political obstacles. The PLO Executive Committee has for some time failed to hold any meetings. There are differences and some members are accusing the others of failure to prepare an agenda. Why, and when will the committee meet?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that the meeting was held hurriedly, although I took part in it. Anyway, what we agreed to do during that first preparatory meeting in Gaza was to prepare for a meeting early next month, in two weeks time.

['Awn] The Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, attacked the issue of the PLO's representation at the Rabat summit. What is the PLO's stance on that new Jordanian position?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We do not want to engage in a historical argument with any party. We believe it is possible that positive developments might take place in the next two weeks.

['Awn] What do you mean by a positive development? Will it be a meeting or what?

['Abd-Rabbuh] A meeting might be held at leader level in the next two weeks.

Casualty Count Continues To Rise

TA1811193194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sounds of gunshots are still being heard throughout the city of Gaza. According to Palestinian sources, the casualty toll has risen to 13 dead and 250 wounded. The fatalities include a Palestinian policeman.

In an official statement released by the Palestinian Authority [PA], the Palestinian police says that subversive elements infiltrated the worshipers at the Filastin Mosque at noon today and incited them. According to the statement, these elements opened fire and triggered the exchanges of fire.

Earlier, PA sources claimed that the slain policeman and the wounded policemen were shot by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads taking part in the riots. The organizers of the demonstration and Hamas sources, however, claim that the Palestinian policemen were not hit by their fire. The reports from Gaza were brought by our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen.

Following the events in the center of Gaza, hundreds of Hamas supporters descended on the Netzarim junction this afternoon and forced the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to withdraw. The soldiers abandoned the military positions at the junction in accordance with standing procedures and retreated 100 meters. The Palestinian policemen failed to rein in the demonstrators, who occupied the IDF positions, set tires on fire, sprayed graffiti on the walls, and then retreated. In the course of the confrontation, the demonstrators removed the obstacles placed on the road following last Friday's [11 November] suicide attack. The soldiers returned to their positions only a long time later.

Riots also took place in Rafah. Upon hearing of the riots in Gaza, hundreds of extremist Muslims attacked a movie theater and a restaurant. After the prayers,

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fanatics left the al-Huda Mosque, marched through the main streets, set the door of a movie theater on fire, and shattered the windows of a restaurant.

A manifesto released by the Israeli Arab Follow-Up Committee called for restraint and urged the parties to the conflict to refrain from acts of violence.

Qaddumi Reacts to Incident

NC1811193394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stressed that Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is pushing toward a Palestinian civil war.

In a statement today following the bloody clashes that took place in Gaza between the Palestinian police and supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Qaddumi said Rabin continues to place more obstacles and to put pressure on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to push it toward a Palestinian civil war.

In a statement to journalists on his arrival in Cairo today, Qaddumi noted that Rabin has repeatedly asked PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to prevent any Palestinian activity against the occupation forces in the self-rule regions of Gaza and Jericho. He added that Rabin is not implementing the declaration of principles and is not working for peace but to abort and destroy the peace process.

Gaza Reportedly Calm

JN1811210594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Calm has returned to the Gaza Strip following today's bloody incidents in the city of Gaza, which erupted after Friday prayers at Filastin Mosque. With the fall of night, no more gunshots were heard in Gaza and city inhabitants observed the curfew clamped by the Palestinian police to calm the situation.

The latest toll of the victims of confrontations, which were described as the most violent and dangerous between demonstrators supporting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Palestinian police, indicates that 13 Palestinians, including one policeman, were killed and another 200, including 25 in serious condition, were wounded.

A statement by the official Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, said the demonstrators were the first to open fire on the policemen and that many of them were carrying weapons. They began shooting upon leaving the mosque. The Palestinian police apprehended a large number of demonstrators. Other Hamas demonstrators set fire to a movie theater in Rafah in the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

It was reported this evening that representatives of the national institutions and religious key figures in the Gaza Strip have called for an urgent meeting to contain the situation and avoid further deterioration. In an apparent reference to Hamas, the Palestinian Authority called on those responsible for the incidents to exercise self-restraint. It accused what it termed the stray and renegade faction of preplanning the acts of violence upon instigation from external quarters.

Fatah Cites 'Foreign Plots'

NC1811215394 Paris AFP in English 2018 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 18 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction Friday accused Moslem fundamentalists of carrying out "foreign plots" by instigating violence here that left 13 people dead and about 200 wounded.

In a statement faxed to news agencies, Fatah said Friday's unprecedented clashes "showed the truth about (the Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"Despite our patience and forgiveness...Hamas and Islamic Jihad implemented foreign plots."

Palestinian police opened fire on Moslem fundamentalists and their supporters outside a mosque in Gaza City after Friday noon prayers.

Thirteen people were killed and about 200 wounded in the clash and in ensuing violence across the city.

Police said the fundamentalists, who were planning a demonstration, opened fire first, killing a policeman and wounding ten others.

Meanwhile, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, a former chief negotiator for the Palestinians with Israel said he was in touch with 'Arafat and Hamas leaders in an attempt to control the situation.

"My initial impression is there is readiness to contain the situation," he said.

"Mediation can come later on," he said. "Both sides should now avoid action and words of incitement."

He said he had seen 'Arafat after the events, and described him as "depressed, but he did not rule out talking to them (Hamas)."

A Hamas leader had also contacted him and "said very responsible things and I was very glad," 'Abd-al-Shafi told AFP.

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In its statement, Fatah charged Hamas and Jihad with "intentionally crossing the red line," and "placing armed militants inside the mosque who first opened fire on the police."

It warned that it would not stand by quietly, saying "we have ways to face political violation and those who work as agents."

But it also called on "all the honorable elements among our people, especially in Hamas and Islamic Jihad to place national interests above all considerations."

In Damascus earlier, Hamas said the Palestinian self-rule authority was to blame for the "massacre" and warned it would not go "unpunished."

Fatah Group Blames 'Arafat

NC1811222594 Paris AFP in English 2158 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Nov 18 (AFP)—A dissident PLO faction, Fatah-Intifadah, on Friday [18 November] blamed Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat for the "massacre" in the Gaza Strip which left 13 Palestinians dead and 200 wounded.

" 'Arafat, his autonomous administration and his police will go down in history as responsible for the incidents and the consequences which will follow the massacre of our people" in Gaza, the Damascus-based group of Abu-Musa said in a statement.

It said the Palestinians "remained committed to their right to fight to win back all of Palestine."

Fatah-Intifadah, which is opposed to Israeli-PLO autonomy accords, called on the Palestinian people to "mobilise all its forces to bring down the treacherous accords, their symbols and their tools."

The worst clashes since Palestinian self-rule was launched in May erupted when Gaza police opened fire for the first time on stone throwers outside Gaza City's main mosque after Friday prayers.

'Arafat's Adviser Denies Curfew

NC1911065494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports by some Western news agencies that the Palestinian Authority imposed a curfew on Gaza or took any extraordinary measures. He told the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY that Western media exaggerated the events that took place in Filastin Mosque in Gaza. What happened, he said, was premeditated by the extremist groups and had foreign motives behind it.

Abu-Rudaynah said President 'Arafat immediately ordered self-restraint. He said the situation has been brought under control and that things are now proceeding normally.

Qaddumi Urges 'Self-Restraint'

NC1911100194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has appealed to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and the Palestinian people to put an end to the bloody tragedy that took place in Gaza yesterday.

In a statement distributed by the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo today, Qaddumi called on the PNA to demonstrate self-restraint, to release all detainees, and to start a fraternal and constructive dialogue among all the Palestinian forces and factions in order to preserve the Palestinian people's unity and safety.

Qaddumi said the bloody incident among brothers in Gaza was sedition, woven by the fingers of the Israeli occupation and implemented to undermine the Palestinian people's unity and heroic struggle.

He expressed confidence that patriotic leaders and wise men can stop the bloodshed and return calm and assurance to the valiant Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Refugees React

NC1911102094 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Lebanon, Nov 19 (AFP)—Palestinian refugees in Lebanon's largest camp burned tyres on Saturday [19 November] in mourning for the victims of the Gaza clashes and urged Islamic militants to "kill" PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

" 'Arafat is the cancer of the Palestinian people," said 'Amir al-Khatib, who lives in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp just outside the port of Sidon.

Fifteen people died when PLO police and Islamic militants clashed Friday outside a mosque in the Gaza Strip, in the worst violence since Palestinian self-rule was launched in May.

"We call on the Islamic Jihad and (Islamic Resistance Movement) HAMAS and all the national Palestinian forces to kill 'Arafat as soon as possible. The blood of our martyrs cannot be spilled cheaply," al-Khatib added.

He was among hundreds of people who burned tyres sealing off the entrances to 'Ayn al-Hulwah and who raised black flags on rooftops across the sprawling camp, home to 80,000 Palestinians.

Schools and shops closed in response to a call by radical Palestinian forces and Islamic militants in the camp, including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, to observe a day of mourning while verses of the Koran were read at mosques and broadcast on loudspeakers.

An AFP correspondent in 'Ayn al-Hulwah said it was the first time that such a call received full support from the camp's inhabitants.

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Samir Jum'ah, a member of Palestinian popular committees which manage daily affairs in the camp, also echoed the call for 'Arafat's execution.

"'Arafat must be killed. A Palestinian mujahid will emerge and carry out this task," he said.

Munir Maqdah, a dissident from 'Arafat's own Fatah group, accused 'Arafat of collaborating with Israel.

"Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wanted to throw Gaza into the sea and now 'Arafat has fulfilled the hopes of the Israeli people and drowned it in blood," he said.

"Let the traitor 'Arafat return to his Israeli masters," he added.

PA Sets Up Judicial Committee

NC1911151194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 19 Nov (MENA)—The Palestinian National Authority [PA] Council, at a meeting today chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, decided to set up a judicial commission of inquiry to determine the reasons and motives for the disturbances that took place in Gaza yesterday. The council also decided to form a fact-finding committee to investigate this incident. Representatives from various political trends will take part in this committee, including figures close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Jihad Movement. Among these figures are Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah, and Ahmad Muslimani.

Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PA minister of labor, revealed these decisions in a statement to MENA following the council meeting. Dr. Ghawshah added that the council had also decided to release all detainees involved in yesterday's incidents and to consider those from all trends who were killed during these events as martyrs whose families and children will be taken care of by the PA. The council also decided to survey the damage to public places and to compensate the owners, he added.

Dr. Ghawshah pointed out that during the meeting the council had reviewed all issues related to yesterday's events. He noted that among the most important reasons for the flare up are the policies pursued by Israel, its procrastination in implementing the articles and stages of the agreement to establish peace in the occupied territories, the procrastination of the donor states, chief among whom is the United States, in fulfilling their promises to develop Gaza and Jericho, and the failure to proceed with the peace process. This, he added, is embarrassing the Palestinian Authority and heightening the crisis over the political and social conditions in the areas controlled by the PA, something that has created fertile soil for various types of violence.

Dr. Ghawshah stressed the need for an inter-Palestinian dialogue among all trends in all cities and villages to explain the facts of the situation to the Palestinian people, stress the supremacy of the law, improve the performance of the PA, and adopt an integrated economic plan to eliminate the causes of tension. Dr. Ghawshah emphasized the need to adopt a pointed decision about Israel's procrastination, its policy of imposing a siege on the people living in the self-rule areas, and its use of collective punishment. All these issues must be brought to the attention of the world community so that it can shoulder its responsibility if it really wants peace and stability in the Middle East, he added.

Security Chief Calls For Dialogue

JN1911151694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Interview with Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, commander of Preventive Security "in the occupied West Bank", by correspondent Ahmad Birru on 19 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Rujub] The situation in the West Bank today is calm. A state of mourning and shock prevails. Efforts are being concentrated on containing what took place in Gaza yesterday. God willing and through the cooperation of all political forces, I am sure that this situation will not spread to the West Bank.

[Birru] Some Palestinian organizations accuse the Palestinian Authority [PA] of practicing the role of the Israeli police, and even of doing more than what the Israeli forces used to do. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Rujub] I think these accusations are trivial and ridiculous, because the Palestinian people—with all their social and political sectors—are the only losers. It is not a time to make accusations but to contain the situation, in order to lay down a number of rules and bases that should form the relationship between the authority and the opposition in the future.

I believe the opposition should understand the rules of the democratic game. This is the first time in our life we have exercised our powers. Our people should understand that they are dutybound to respect the authority and the opposition.

I believe this authority is the crowning of 80 years of continuous national struggle and bloodshed. I do not believe that a word here or there will solve the problem of the Palestinian people. Only through participation to build the departments and institutions of the authority and to set up an opposition that abides by the interests of the Palestinian people can we solve our problems. We cannot solve our problems with accusations and statements. The opposition should enter in a serious dialogue with the PA in order to build a society in which confidence and love prevail and which is governed by a number of ethical bases which express our national interests.

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[Birru] Col. Jibril al-Rujub: What is the situation today in Gaza?

[Al-Rujub] The situation, as I said, is difficult, and what happened was painful to all. Efforts are now being directed toward containing and evaluating what happened, as well as toward learning from this. I hope all political forces will take part in this difficult task.

[Birru] What were the results of the meeting which took place last night between the PA leadership—Yasir 'Arafat—and the officials from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad? Will the meeting continue?

[Al-Rujub] I believe what was achieved in the meeting was very slight. However, our hearts and efforts are directed toward embarking on a dialogue. We hope all will be serious in terms of laying down bases and rules that will govern Palestinian political activities. We do not want the Palestinian people to applaud for the accord. However, we hope that all will resort to voting to decide this controversial issue.

[Birru] Do you fear new clashes with Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters after what happened yesterday?

[Al-Rujub] We are a coherent society. We must not be vulnerable to divisions, such as, this is Fatah, this is Hamas, and so on. This is rejected; we will strongly resist it. We can resolve our problems and political differences through democratic dialogue, ethics, and values, far away from violence. I am certain that the Palestinian people will prevent any civil wars in Gaza or in the West Bank.

[Birru] Israeli sources said the Israeli Government will allow the entry of new Palestinian forces from the Arab countries to Gaza. What is your information on this?

[Al-Rujub] This is rejected. We did not and will not ask the Israelis to facilitate the movement of our forces from abroad. We have forces and our people will protect their authority, themselves, their interests and their achievements. The Israelis are expecting us to seek their help. However, we will not seek Israel's help. We reject this, in part and parcel, on all national levels.

[Birru] Will the PA ask for Palestinian forces from abroad?

[Al-Rujub] We do not need Palestinian forces from outside; we are not waging a war against our people. This is rejected and will never happen.

[Birru] Col. al-Rujub, thank you.

[Al-Rujub] You are welcome.

More on Hamas Warnings

NC1911163994 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 19 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) warned on Saturday [19 November] that it would make Israelis pay the price for the Palestinian blood spilt in Gaza.

Hamas, in a statement faxed to news agencies, reiterated that the Palestinian self-rule Authority was to blame for Friday's clashes here in which 15 people were killed and accused it of being a tool of Israel.

But the Moslem fundamentalist group called on its fighters and "all militants of the different Palestinian factions" to seek revenge by "striking at the occupation army and settlers."

It would be retaliation for the "massacre perpetrated by the occupation army through its agents."

On Friday, Palestinian police clashed with Islamic fundamentalists in the worst violence since self-rule began six months ago. Fourteen civilians and a policeman were killed and about 200 people injured.

Islamic Jihad Urges Talks Between Hamas, PA

JN1911173194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad-al-Aqsa Battalions in Gaza today urged Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] to display wisdom and reason and to engage the Palestinian leadership in dialogue to stem the blood of our people and spare lives in the interest of the homeland, religion, and the Palestinian cause. The Islamic Jihad-al-Aqsa Battalions viewed these confrontations as a serious sign and unauspicious start that only serves Israel's interests and threatens civil war and the liquidation of nationalist figures.

Cabinet Wants Investigation

JN1911174494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] is moving in several directions to follow the Gaza incidents and their results, to ensure that they will not be repeated, and to prevent any side from trying to tamper with national unity and disturb security and calm. Contacts and consultations have been active over the past few hours between national political and religious leaders and the National Authority in order to explore the current situation in the field after calm has prevailed in the Gaza Strip.

The Council of Ministers of the PNA, chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, studied the painful incidents that occurred in Gaza, their dimensions, and their impact on the security of our Palestinian masses and their drive to enhance democracy and build the homeland.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said that the Council of Ministers listened to a comprehensive report from President Yasir 'Arafat on the details of the painful incidents that occurred in Gaza

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yesterday. The Council of Ministers was also briefed on the measures the PNA had taken to contain the incidents. The measures call for meetings, self-restraint, and avoiding friction in order to prevent malicious instigators against the PNA from creating sedition and civil war.

The Council of Ministers has decided to take the following measures:

1. Forming a judiciary investigation commission enjoying all powers to look into the reasons and details of the painful incidents, which occurred in Gaza after the Friday prayers, so that the PNA can take suitable steps in light of the results of the investigation.

2. Forming a fact-finding committee including national forces and figures.

3. To consider the victims of these painful incidents martyrs of Palestine, and that the PNA should take care of their families. It has been learned that eight of these martyrs were members of the Fatah Movement, who were shot in the heads with pistols at close range.

4. Releasing all prisoners, who were arrested after yesterday's incidents and who did not attack public or private property.

5. Compensating persons, whose properties were exposed to sabotage operations.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council of Ministers acquainted itself with x-Ray pictures of those injured during the Gaza incidents. He added that it has been proved by specialist doctors that dumdum and plastic bullets, which the PNA police and security forces do not have, were used against the victims. The council decided to refer these documents to the investigation committee. The council then stressed the need to hold a comprehensive national dialogue to achieve national unity under the supremacy of the law and general order.

VOP Revises Casualty Figures

JN1911175394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Statement issued by the Palestinian Authority's Health Ministry; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ministry would like to stress that the casualty toll carried by news agencies about the regrettable incidents in Gaza is inaccurate. The number of wounded admitted to the al-Shifa' Hospital is 102. The figure includes 60 with light wounds, who have since been sent home, and 42 with medium wounds, among them three in critical but stable condition.

Meanwhile, 28 persons were admitted to the al-Ahli al-'Arabi Hospital. Twenty-two received treatment and were then discharged.

There were 11 martyrs—10 in al-Shifa' Hospital and one in al-Ahli al-'Arabi Hospital.

The number of wounded still receiving treatment are 47, of whom five are in critical but stable condition. The wounds of the rest are medium. The total number of the cases that have been sent home is 82.

'Arafat Adviser Views Incidents

JN1911181994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to PA President Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent on 19 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: What is going on now in the wake of the regrettable incidents in Gaza yesterday?

[Abu-Rudaynah] You know well what happened yesterday following Friday [18 November] prayers. A group emerged from among the worshipers, using loudspeakers and raising posters. It also opened fire on two police cars in the scene, killing a lieutenant colonel in the Palestinian police and wounding several policemen. This prompted the arrival of police and security men at the scene. You know how things developed later and what happened at the al-Shifa' Hospital. It was irrevocably confirmed that there was a premeditated plan; riots occurred in several places; rioters attacked police cars, ambulances, and public utilities, and set fire to some cinemas.

We would like to say that none of the brothers in Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] or the [Islamic] Jihad has claimed responsibility for what happened. As you know, attempts to calm down the situation were made yesterday evening. Praiseworthy efforts were made by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish from the Islamic Movement inside the Green Line [Israel]. I believe their efforts were successful and that the situation is calming down, particularly the gradual return to normal life in Gaza today.

We would like to emphasize here that President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has told everyone that he cares for national unity, that he constantly extends his hand—exactly like he did in the past 20 or 25 years—that the PLO stresses the sacred national unity, and that the Palestinian hand is always extended to all sons of the Palestinian people. This is the Palestinian people's state which will be built with the efforts of all. We are against anything designed to undermine this Palestinian project, which will lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Some infiltrators carried out irresponsible actions and conduct. Things developed the way they did. We constantly feel that the national unity, which President Abu-'Ammar cares for, will be one of the important issues in the coming phase.

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[Correspondent] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: Hamas informed Shaykh Darwish inside the Green Line that the only national authority in Gaza is that of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] led by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. What is your comment on this position?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First, this is the natural position of all sons of the Palestinian people, whether they are in the PA or the Palestinian opposition. This people want to build their own homeland and wish to safeguard their achievements. For the first time in history, this people obtained a liberated piece of land which they want to develop. We salute all good offices which emphasize and consolidate this tendency.

[Correspondent] You know that Hamas issues a newspaper in the Gaza Strip ...

[Abu-Rudaynah, interrupting] Yes, and it was licensed by the PNA.

[Correspondent, continuing] ... and that the second sentence in President Yasir 'Arafat's speech when his foot touched the homeland's soil was a call for releasing Shaykh Yasin who is detained in the jails ...

[Abu-Rudaynah, interrupting] Yes, and this is a constant Palestinian demand listed on the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

[Correspondent] The situation is thus gradually returning to normal. The efforts to calm it down are continuing.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes. We hope calm will return gradually. The good offices are continuing, and the Palestinian house is open for all sons of the Palestinian people. The PNA is an achievement for the entire Palestinian people. President Abu-'Ammar is the president of the Palestinian people, with all their factions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, thank you.

More From 'Arafat Adviser

NC1911193894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by an unidentified correspondent in Cairo on 19 November; from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] The situation in Gaza has erupted, with clashes between the Palestinian police and the supporters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Jihad; and people have been killed and wounded. What brought this situation about?

[Abu-Rudaynah] What happened yesterday was suspicious. A group of people fired at the police without warning. One policeman was martyred and several others were wounded. The situation developed into disturbances which proved later to have been prearranged and premeditated. We discovered today that eight or nine of the martyrs were members of Fatah and that they were hit by bullets that the Palestinian police do not possess. Dumdum bullets and automatic weapons were used. For the record, the brothers in Hamas and Islamic al-Jihad have not issued any statement claiming responsibility for what happened.

[Correspondent] Does this confirm President Yasir 'Arafat's statement that there was foreign involvement?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, foreign hands were involved. The Palestinian cabinet met and decided to form a committee to investigate what happened, since there was alien and suspicious involvement in the incident. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Israeli Prime Minister Rabin said that there will be no elections until the Palestinian National Charter is amended. Is this the first time that Rabin has linked the elections to the charter?

[Abu-Rudaynah] This is a new condition, which we denounce. We were surprised by it, because the agreements signed in Washington and Cairo clearly stipulate that the elections should be held as soon as possible. They were supposed to be held last July. The current delay and the other side's demands are impeding the peace process and are one of the reasons for the difficult conditions.

[Correspondent] Following these recent incidents, do you expect Israel to continue to prevaricate or is it in its interest to support and back the Palestinian Authority?

[Abu-Rudaynah] We are asking the Israeli side to implement fully and honestly the peace agreements signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government. This is the solution to the whole crisis that could face everybody.

Hamas Leader Sets Conditions for Talks

TA1911181994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Palestinian Authority [PA] official said that the Palestinian police are holding in custody several people who were planted in the crowd in Gaza and who deliberately opened fire at Palestinian policemen to create a provocation and to kindle a flame between the PA and the Islamic factions. The senior official told our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha that the detainees are currently being interrogated by the Palestinian police and security services.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, stated this evening that he has no objection to a direct dialogue with the PA on the condition that the latter admits its responsibility for yesterday's events and punishes the men who gave the order and the policemen who opened fire at the

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worshipers. According to him, the inquiry commissions set up by the PA are insufficient and it is necessary to set up a commission that includes members of Hamas and independent representatives. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that Shaykh Bahr made these remarks in a meeting with the Arab Knesset members and members of the Israeli Arab Follow-Up Committee currently visiting Gaza.

Jerusalem Mufti Suspects 'Third Party'

JN1911182494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Interview with Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri, mufti of Jerusalem, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good evening, Your Eminence.

['Ikrimah] Good evening to you.

[Correspondent] What is happening in Gaza is really painful and unimaginable. In our opinion, this is a conspiracy against the Palestinian people. What is the way out of such a bloody incident, do you think?

['Ikrimah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you have pointed out, what happened in Gaza is painful and deplorable and disturbing. I think that a third party fed the differences; there were reports of gunshots being fired at a policeman. We do not want our people to be dragged into intrigues and conspiracies that could lead to bloodshed and differences in opinion. We hope well-intentioned efforts will staunch the blood in the Palestinian arena, since all parties stand to lose from blood letting. We also hope the people will extend cooperation their to the police because we all brothers. It is hoped the people will also cooperate with the government in rebuilding the economic, educational, and health structures to prove that we are a people worthy of life. As one people, we should rise above our disagreements.

[Correspondent] But what steps do you think must be taken to resolve the crisis?

['Ikrimah] It is our duty and every citizen's to appeal to all sides to calm down. There are consultations to form delegations from all trends, and families to visit Gaza and contact all the parties. One is made stronger by one's brothers and friends standing by him. It is our duty to take this step without delay.

'Arafat Views 'Sedition'

JN1911183194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], today received the Higher Arab Committee for Coordination and Follow-up, led by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, head of the Arab Local Councils, and 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic movement. The committee also includes 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Talab al-Sani', and Hashim Mahamid.

His excellency the president studied with the committee developments in the painful incidents that took place after Friday prayers yesterday, their impact on the overall situation in the Gaza Strip, and the seriousness of the sedition that malicious and biased persons tried to create in order to exploit the worshipers.

President 'Arafat said that the PNA was eager to achieve security and safety for every citizen on the soil of the homeland in a democratic atmosphere and under the law, in order to enable the whole Palestinian people to build their homeland despite all the challenges facing them. His excellency the president also voiced his desire to intensify the Palestinian leadership's determination to achieve national unity on the ground as a protecting shield in the face of all dangers.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he was in touch with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and officials of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to calm the situation. He added that he met with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat after the incident and that 'Arafat was deeply affected. A Hamas official also contacted President 'Arafat and talked to him responsibly. 'Abd-al-Shafi urged the PNA and Hamas to avoid any provocative action or statement. He pointed out that his first impression was that everybody was ready to contain the regrettable incident and to start a dialogue.

Following his meeting today with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Hamas representatives in the city of Gaza, 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic movement inside the Green Line, stated that Hamas has recognized the sovereignty of the PNA, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, and that it was not endeavoring to replace or weaken the authority. Shaykh Darwish told media organs that Hamas was eager to cooperate with the PNA.

Cadres Reportedly Killed by Dumdum Bullets

JN1911185694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior responsible Palestinian source has said neutral preliminary investigations conducted by competent legal Palestinian circles have shown that among the 13 martyrs who fell in the regrettable incidents [in Gaza] were nine honorable Fatah Movement cadres who were performing prayers, that they were directly fired on, and that they sustained direct hits in the head from pistols loaded with dumdum bullets which are not used by the Palestinian police. These bullets are used by other parties known to our Palestinian people.

The source appealed to the sons of our Palestinian people, the people of sacrifices, everywhere to enjoy

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self-restraint, patience, and insistence on building their homeland, the homeland of eternity and steadfastness, and also to be cautious about all infiltrators and renegades who wish to drag our people into further irresponsible conduct through their devilish plans.

The source also appealed to all factions of our people to enjoy self-restraint and rise up to the level of the historic responsibility facing our persevering people, the people of sacrifices and loftiness.

Islamic Jihad Leader Denounces Self-Rule

JN1911203794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has stated that the Gaza crime indicates the extent of the foolishness and madness of 'Arafat's self-rule authority and its advisers. This authority, he said, has devoted its efforts to carry out Zionist orders and desires and to assert its hollow authority, which is unable to solve any problem and which does nothing other than oppression.

Ahmad Jibril on 'Arafat 'Farce'

JN1911210594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has said that what we saw on black Friday was expected. He said we had warned our people everywhere that 'Arafat was brought to Gaza Strip as part of a Zionist-American plan to oppress the intifadah and relieve the Zionist enemy of the flames of the revolting Gaza Strip.

Ahmad Jibril added: I said 'Arafat was going to Gaza Strip to be a new Antoine Lahd. 'Arafat could not bear the voices of rejection. He responded to the recurring call of Rabin and the Zionists. We all heard Rabin's warning when he said to 'Arafat: You are being tested. Either you succeed or leave the strip.

Ahmad Jibril also said: The fated incident, which we have always avoided, has occurred. We hope that our people's wisdom will reign and that wise and nationalist people will stop 'Arafat's deviations. He added: I believe that this time 'Arafat will not find any Zionist plane or boat to take him away from the Gaza shore. He will be punished severely, the farce will end forever, and the play of 'Arafat and his companions will end.

Radio on Violence Following Incident

JN1911211394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Political commentary: "Defusing Infighting is the Responsibility of Every Palestinian"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sad Friday [18 November], the day of ordeal, is the day on which Palestinian blood was shed. It is the day on which there was no victor or vanquished, because all the Palestinian people were the only losers.

In the past, we feared nothing, despite our weakness in everything. Our only strength was represented by our people's national unity. That unity enabled us to remain steadfast for a long time; it was the longest-standing steadfastness in the history of the bad time. That unity provided us with enormous strength, full of sacrifices and self-denial in our long march toward the homeland. Our first step in the homeland was the beginning of the end of the ordeal and the launching of hope for the future we will make together.

Today, however, we have the right to be afraid. We have the right to be afraid while seeing the maker of our steadfastness and achievements, our national unity, bleeding; while seeing our fate and future threatened. Who can accept this heavy loss and tragic end? All the great people answered this question—five million Palestinian no's in the homeland and diaspora. These five million no's stood up firmly to prevent sedition; they stood in the face of anyone who would try to ignite it. Five million Palestinians will defend the unity they achieved through their blood and suffering. They will enhance the march of independence, construction, and democracy, because they are united around the same interests, represented by building a promising future and proceeding with the option of life for this struggling people. This people can no longer tolerate any gambling with their fate or placing them in laboratories for new experiments.

As the danger cannot be defeated by hope alone, we should focus on the problem that erupted yesterday with responsibility and frankness. The bloody incident unleashed the secondary conflict, which was escalating in the Palestinian ranks as a result of external and internal factors. These must be scrutinized to learn from them. The objective is to defuse the situation and lay down the bases that will end the crisis and resolve the conflicts among the Palestinians through democratic dialogue and with a national spirit. The following are the factors:

1. The obstacles to the political solution and the failure to implement the Palestinian-Israeli accord, as a result of the Israeli Government's intransigence and hesitation, have undermined the confidence of large sectors and increasing numbers of the Palestinian people in the viability of the peace process. Siege measures and preventing Gaza workers from working inside the Green Line have further obstructed the political solution. This has complicated things and created a popular atmosphere for resuming military operations by the opposition against Israel, as an expression of popular desire to emerge from the political and economic siege. This has created tension in relations between the National Authority and the opposition.

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2. The Palestinian people, who have suffered from the Israeli occupation for 27 years and who live under tragic economic conditions, were bitterly disappointed because the donor states refrained from fulfilling their commitments to the Palestinian people and their National Authority. This could have obstructed the process of reconstructing and developing the infrastructure, which was almost damaged. This, in its turn, obstructed local and Arab investments. Thus, the obstacles to economic development and prosperity were an important factor in forming a negative Palestinian mood toward the political process and the sides in charge of it, including the Palestinian National Authority, thereby exacerbating the internal Palestinian situation.

3. The Islamic opposition forces adopted a political course, with nearly unlimited demands. This course was reflected in the instigating platform, which was addressed to their cadres and which pushed these cadres toward extremism. The national movement and the people have very clearly defined their program as a program that can be applied in the near future. However, the opposition forces have not presented a program or real tasks, proceeding from their political opposition to the political process. These forces have presented tasks that are in conflict with the program and role of the authority. The opposition appeared as if it is an authority equivalent to the existing National Authority. This created friction and led things to confrontation.

What is required, more than before, is to develop and modernize the political platform addressed to the people, particularly in terms of defining the difficulties and contradictions of the political solution and in terms of inviting people to participate effectively and on a large scale in making the national fate and in the construction to safeguard unity, reinforce democratic traditions, and present programs and formulas to incorporate the opposition in implementing the national plan on the ground.

Out of our faithfulness to the martyrs and wounded and to every mother, youth, child, and old man, who were pained yesterday, we can say that all should pledge:

1. To ban shooting and shedding Palestinian blood regardless of motives and causes;

2. That defusing the exploding situation is the responsibility of every Palestinian.

This begins by embarking on a serious and responsible dialogue to draw up a positive and integrated relationship between the National Authority and the opposition. And the reference to this relationship should be the Palestinian people and national interests.

Hamas, PA Reportedly Reach Understanding

TA2011060494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources in Gaza say an understanding on most differences between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] has been reached. However, no agreement has been signed between the sides. Knesset Member Talib al-Sani' said the refusal of the authority at the request of Hamas to take responsibility for the shoot out in Gaza is holding up the signatures.

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Algeria

'Most Extremist' Zeytouni Said To Be GIA Leader

MM1811144694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Zeytouni Leads Armed Group; Tendency for Bloody Escalation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Djemal Zetouni has indeed replaced Abou Khalil Mahfoud as leader of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] in Algeria. A statement was issued by the GIA to that effect early November and was published by the GIA's bulletin EL ANSAR.

So, Abou Khalil's leadership after the former leader Sherif Kwesmi (Abou Abdallah Ahmed) was killed only lasted for a short period of time. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had reported at the time that Abou Khalil's job was temporary and limited, pending the appointment of Djemal Zeytouni who headed the "death squad" before Kwesmi appointed him as his deputy.

Zeytouni is considered to be the most extremist GIA leader. He was responsible for the most bloody operations in the capital Algiers including the killing of the French nationals. According to Western sources, Dejemal Zeytouni used to move around almost openly in the capital where he was seen more than once. It is not known whether or not he moved his headquarters outside the capital after the recent security combing campaign. The sources say that Zeytouni categorically rejects any negotiated settlement with the regime and that he had vehemently opposed the [Islamic] Salvation Front leaders for accepting the principle of dialogue with the regime. [passage omitted]

Security Services Kill 38 'Terrorists'

LD1911191594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique issued by the security services said that 38 terrorists were eliminated last week in Constantine, Tissemsilt, Algiers, El Bayadh, Tlemecen, Blida, Batna, Skikda, Sidi Bel Abbes, Ain Defla, and M'Sila.

The security services' communique added that security forces were able to recover some arms and reveal the identities of some terrorists who were eliminated during these operations.

'Terrorists' Reportedly Attack Village

LD1911223394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the security services today reports that a group of armed terrorists carried out an attack at 2045 last Wednesday [16 November] night against the village of Sidi Abdellah in the Municipality of Maalma of Tipaza Province and killed 10 citizens including two members of the security forces, and wounded four others.

During their retaliation, the two members of the security forces were able to liquidate six terrorists before they died. Security forces moved to the site of the incident after an alert from some citizens and eliminated eight terrorists.

Interior Minister Sets Up Commission for Elections

LD1911201694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidential elections are to take place before the end of 1995. The interior minister has set up a commission to update the electoral law. The operation aimed at clearing up electoral lists is well under way. This issue was discussed during the latest government meeting.

Ministry Condemns Rome Meeting on Internal Problems

LD1911203794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement from the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, the Algerian Government is surprised at the organizing of a meeting in Rome by the Catholic Saint Egidio community. Algeria's ambassador in Rome has informed the community of this stance. In this regard, the Algerian Government confirms its stance, which was reiterated by the country's highest authorities, that Algeria's internal problems can only be resolved within Algeria and between Algerians. Discussion of such problems cannot be allowed to be diverted abroad.

Proceeding from its commitment to this principle, the Algerian Government has never requested any foreign mediation and will not allow any interference in the running of Algeria's internal affairs.

The Algerian Government recalls the efforts made by the head of state to promote national dialogue open to all political forces which denounce violence as a means of achieving power. The dialogue is also open to national forces which respect national principles stipulated by the constitution.

The doors of dialogue remain open to all those who believe in these principles and abide by the constitution and the republican laws. This a matter known to all legal national political forces.

Official Meets Italian, Vatican Envoys

LD1911224094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry received the representative of the Vatican, Edmond Farhat, and Italian Ambassador Patrizio

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Schmidlin today at the headquarters of the ministry. The talks dealt with issues in connection with the meeting on Algeria organized by the Sant' Egidio Community in Rome.

Commentary Views Rome Meeting

LD2011222794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tomorrow Rome is going to be the scene for a meeting of Algerian opposition parties organized by the Sant' Egidio Community. A number of questions have been raised about this meeting. Is it a prelude to internalizing the Algerian crisis and hence an attempt to impose solutions from outside in a way that meets appeals by some party leaders who have long called on the international community to spread famine among the Algerian people and send their foreign troops to our country? Or is it an attempt to find a circle where stances can be accepted of leaders who let the people and Algeria's history down and deviated from the principles of November which were our victory symbol? It could also be a way to avoid facing the people after the people voiced their say and took their stance by stressing, throughout Algeria, the need to go through ballot boxes to come to power.

Attending the meeting and responding to the invitation of the Sant' Egidio Community could translate into a great fear of the outcome of presidential elections announced recently by the head of state.

It is commonplace that the arrangements made outside the framework of popular representation, for the most part, are not just. In any case, it is logically unacceptable that this meeting has no [popular representation]; it is also very unlikely that the meeting will be crowned by solving Algeria's crisis, because the solution is only in Algeria and among Algerians and this is very well understood by those who are taking part in the meeting.

What is behind the Sant' Egidio meeting then? To avoid answering some of these questions, some leaders of the parties who are attending the Rome meeting said it was a mere meeting to exchange some ideas. This is an attempt to mislead the national public opinion. [passage omitted]

The National Rally for Progress received with surprise and anger the news of the organizing by the Catholic Church in Rome of a meeting on the Algerian crisis to be attended by some Algerian parties and organizations.

The Arab Islamic Rally said there was no reason for tomorrow's meeting in Rome. It said that looking for solutions from outside does not respect the sacrifices of the Algerian people nor does it meet its aspirations.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses International, Domestic Issues

NC2011174394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome, 20 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has called on the countries of the world to quickly offer effective aid to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to enable him to implement the infrastructure projects in the self-rule areas. He warned of the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA published today, President Mubarak expressed regret at the donor nations' delay in providing the Palestinians the promised aid, estimated at $2.2 billion. He praised leader 'Arafat's courage in concluding a peace agreement with Israel. He called on Israel not to ask 'Arafat for the impossible and urged it to be realistic, noting that the most realistic thing to do is support 'Arafat.

President Mubarak stressed that he does not expect a new war in the region, but noted the possibility of acts of violence occurring in the region, which is more serious than war. He said that failure to resolve the Palestinian issue will attract to the region all sorts of fanatics, who might transform Gaza and the surrounding area into a new Afghanistan.

President Mubarak stressed (?Syria's eagerness) [words indistinct] to reach peace, noting that the remaining serious obstacle is the lack of confidence between the Syrian and Israeli parties. He told [name indistinct], expert on Middle Eastern affairs of CORRIERE DELLA SERA, that the situation is now favorable for achieving peace. He noted that meetings will be held in Washington and stressed that Syria realizes that it is in its interest to sign a peace treaty.

President Mubarak called on Israel to show greater flexibility, stressing that there will be no peace unless the Golan Heights are returned to Syria, adding: I explained this to Israel more than once. He described the Jordanian-Israeli agreement as "a special case." He noted that it is not necessary for the Syrians to accept the same settlement formula that the Egyptians accepted.

Discussing extremism in Egypt, President Mubarak emphasized the Egyptian people's moderate nature and the fact they have no tendency toward violence. He noted that the acts of terrorism that have occurred in Egypt were perpetrated by a number of individuals who returned from Afghanistan after receiving training and funding abroad. He stressed that the fundamentalists' cells are currently being watched, and described these acts as "isolated and scattered." He said that it is most likely that the sources of funding for the terrorists are in Iran and Sudan, where there are training camps, and Iraq

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may be involved too. He noted that Sudan may serve as a route for terrorists. He said that there are extremists in all religions, despite disparities in economic conditions. He stressed that Egypt is striving to improve its economic conditions.

Responding to a question on the extent of the danger that fundamentalism poses to Europe, President Mubarak stressed that fundamentalism indeed now poses a danger. He noted that he has already warned the European nations of the danger of hosting fundamentalists so that they may avoid paying the price. He called on France, Britain, and Italy to take a firm stand against extremism

Regarding the situation in Algeria, President Mubarak said that the basic problem in Algeria is that internal conflicts have delayed economic reforms, which must receive top priority. He called for assisting the Algerian authorities to achieve this goal.

President Mubarak stressed his refusal to hold a dialogue with radical fundamentalists, which he said would be "a waste of time," noting in this respect the situation in Iran when the Western European nations let the shah fall in the belief that Khomeyni would be their friend.

President Mubarak said that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is an encouraging step. He said that before all the international sanctions are lifted, Iraq must implement all UN resolutions.

President Mubarak noted Egypt's attempts and diplomatic efforts to stop the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. He said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn made a new mistake when he moved his forces in the past few weeks to put pressure on the UN Security Council, noting that Iraq obtained the opposite of what it sought. He disclosed that Egypt strongly rejected the idea of U.S. forces invading Iraq and capturing the Iraqi leader, noting that former U.S. President George Bush had listened to his advice in this respect.

Discussing Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Husni Mubarak described ties with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as good. He noted that changes have occurred in Libyan policy, as Libya has not opposed the Israeli-Jordanian agreement although its stand is characteristically negative. He noted that Libya has also ceased funding extremist groups, beginning with Abu-Nidal, and refused to host terrorist Carlos when he sought refuge there. He stressed that Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi has become moderate and stressed that Egypt has good ties with Libya. Concluding his statement, he said that he will hold talks with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on common issues and interests in light of the strong ties between Egypt and Italy.

Mubarak Leaves for London To Begin European Tour

NC2011112694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for London at noon today, beginning a European tour during which he will visit the UK, Italy, Romania, and Poland. His talks with the four countries' senior officials will focus on ways to boost bilateral ties, Middle East developments, and progress in the peace talks on the various negotiating tracks.

The president is accompanied on his tour by an official delegation comprising Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Minister of State for Administrative Development 'Atif 'Ubayd, and chief of the Presidential Office Zakariya 'Azmi.

Musa Deplores Gaza Clashes, Urges Aid to PA

NC1911131594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has deplored the confrontations that took place in Gaza yesterday. Those were regrettable incidents which we hope will not recur, he said.

Commenting on those confrontations, Musa said it is the duty of all Palestinians, from all trends, to support the Palestinian Authority [PA] and work together to protect Palestinian interests as the Palestinian people move toward the second stage [of negotiations with Israel] and later the third stage, in which the Palestinians' right to self-determination is exercised.

He said that the Palestinian leadership or administration cannot be fully blamed for the incidents because the obstacles being placed in its way are numerous. He said the development process in Gaza, Jericho, and the rest of the West Bank must be accelerated. Failure to accelerate this development and providing the necessary funding for it will leave things as they are and increase frustration, he said.

Musa noted that President Mubarak has warned that heightening the sense of frustration among the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will lead to an immense explosion. In that case, the problem will not be between the Palestinians and the Palestinian administration or between some Palestinian elements and the Palestinian administration, but much bigger than that.

The foreign minister stressed two important conditions: development and the speedy provision of funds, and the accurate and prompt implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He said providing the necessary funding for the development projects in Gaza and Jericho will be one of the topics President Mubarak will discuss during his European tour, which will begin tomorrow, Sunday.

Phones 'Arafat on Gaza Situation

NC1911150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 19 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon

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received a telephone call from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who conveyed to 'Arafat a message from President Husni Mubarak inquiring about the situation in Gaza Strip.

President 'Arafat assured him the situation has begun to return to normal and asked him to convey his greetings and thanks to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

Musa Welcomes 'Right' UN Resolution on Bosnia

NC2011121394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today commented on yesterday's UN Security Council resolution concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: The resolution is right, and it was needed to stop the Serbian aggression against Muslims in Bosnia, and we hope it will be implemented immediately and accurately.

On the peace agreement expected to be signed this evening between the Angolan Government and the opposition UNITA group, Musa hoped the two sides would succeed in achieving peace in Angola as this is extremely important. He noted that Ambassador Fikri Nakhlah, deputy assistant foreign minister, will attend the signing of the agreement on behalf of the Egyptian Government.

PLO Political Department's Qaddumi Visits

Arrives From Karachi

NC1811164594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo from Karachi this evening on a visit that will last several days, during which he will discuss developments in the regional peace talks.

On his arrival, Qaddumi stated that he will discuss Arab concerns, particularly the Palestinian concerns at this particular stage when Israel is trying to place more obstacles and put more pressure on the Palestinian National Authority to push it toward a civil war.

He added that he will discuss the coordination of stands at the upcoming Islamic conference that will be held in Morocco. He will also discuss other Arab issues, particularly the consolidation of joint Arab action and giving a boost to Arab reconciliation efforts at a time when winds are buffeting the Arab world, worsening its discord.

Qaddumi added that he will discuss bilateral relations with Egypt in order to enhance the peace march and give momentum to joint efforts. He noted that the primary topics he will discuss will be joint Arab action at the United Nations, particularly since the issue of Palestine will be discussed in a week. We will put forward draft Arab resolutions in response to the American stand, he said.

Qaddumi said that some developments must be taken into consideration, like the U.S. elections and the world economic conference that was held in Casablanca. He said that he wanted to take this opportunity to commend the stand Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa took in reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks and to other stands during the conference.

Commenting on Rabin's statement that linked the Palestinian elections to the amendment of the Palestinian national charter, Qaddumi said: We are not bound by what Rabin says; the Palestine National Council [PNC] meets whenever the Palestinians decide. Linking the PNC meeting with the elections is not a part of the Declaration of Principles, he said, adding: If Rabin wishes to raise more obstacles to the settlement process, this will not serve peace in the region.

He added that the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, must take this matter into consideration, because Rabin is pushing us toward a Palestinian civil war.

Touching on the meeting the PLO Executive Committee was expected to hold in Gaza, Qaddumi said that it is premature to hold such a meeting in Gaza. To avoid any misunderstanding, the meeting should be held in the PLO headquarters in Tunis or any other Arab state, as long as the time is not ripe for holding such meetings on our land, which is still under occupation, he said.

Meets With Musa

NC1911141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department Chief, who is currently visiting Cairo. The two discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, the ongoing efforts to provide momentum to the Middle East peace process, and the current situation in Gaza and Jericho.

Speaking after the meeting, Qaddumi stated that, during the session, the Palestinian delegation had raised all the Palestinian concerns, knowing that President Husni Mubarak will back the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian people achieve the goal of establishing an independent state. The discussion during the meeting also focused on inter-Arab coordination, because the coming stage requires such coordination and because Egypt is in a leading position and is making an effort to give impetus to the Palestinian march, despite Israeli obstacles to settlement, he added.

Commenting on the events in Gaza yesterday, Qaddumi said that these regrettable incidents are basically due to some practical matters, including the living conditions of

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some of our people, the political pressure Israel is putting on the National Authority, and Israel's delay in implementing the agreements. This, he added, deprives the Palestinian track of its importance and makes the people uncertain that this track will lead to the required results in accordance with the Madrid conference.

Regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks linking the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to amendment of the PLO Charter, Qaddumi said that Israel is creating difficulties and major obstacles so as not to implement the agreement and hold the elections.

Asked about the U.S. demand to lift the Arab boycott of Israel, Qaddumi said that the decision to lift the boycott of Israel has to be an Arab decision and a collective decision on this needs to be made by the Arab League. He pointed out that such a decision would have to follow a comprehensive withdrawal by Israel, because a state of war between the Arab parties and Israel still exists, one way or the other. In addition, he added, the Syrian and Lebanese tracks have yet to see any significant progress. He added that Israel wants to receive a price for its occupation before terminating it.

Leaves Cairo for Switzerland

NC2011091494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi left Cairo for Switzerland this morning, ending a three-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, Qaddumi met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and discussed with him the latest developments of the Palestine question, efforts to advance the Middle East peace process, and the current situation in Gaza and Jericho.

Security Forces, 'Terrorists' Actions Continue

Two 'Terrorists' Seized in Asyut

NC1911152894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—This morning the State Security intelligence officers in Asyut arrested terrorists 'Ali Hasan Isma'il and 'Abd-al-'Al Hasan Isma'il and seized two semiautomatic rifles and a large quantity of 9-mm ammunition with them.

This was stated by a responsible source in the Interior Ministry. It said: In continuation of the security efforts to apprehend the remnants of terrorism and on the basis of information received by the State Security intelligence service, investigations showed that some terrorist elements were hiding in the islands of Tabunah and Mahfuz, which lie between Markaz Tama in Suhaj and al-Badari in Asyut. It added that security forces raided the aforementioned areas this morning and arrested the above two terrorists, who were referred to the public prosecution office for investigation.

'Terrorist' Killed in al-Minya

NC1911152394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—A fugitive terrorist was killed today after an exchange of gunfire with the security organs in the fields of Markaz Mallawi in al-Minya Governorate.

This was stated by a responsible source in the Interior Ministry. It said: While some officers from the Criminal Research Department in the al-Minya Security Directorate and the Central Security Forces were on their way to lay an ambush in the fields to capture fugitive terrorist elements who were hiding there, they saw a suspected fugitive terrorist on the al-Mahras-al-Shammas road in Markaz Mallawi. The source added: When the terrorist was stopped, he opened fire on the security forces, who immediately returned fire and killed him.

The responsible source went on to say that the security forces found a pistol with the slain terrorist, 'Abd-al-Hamid Mahmud Jad al-Karim. It added that examination showed that the pistol belongs to Noncommissioned Officer Faruq Fawzi Habib of Mallawi police station. The security forces are continuing the search for fugitive terrorists in the fields. The public prosecution office has been informed to start its investigations.

'Terrorist Elements' Storm Mallawi Mosque

NC1911191894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Farraj Taha 'Ali, a custodian at the al-Zawiyah Mosque in the village of Tandah in Mallawi, was killed today by unidentified gunmen. Another citizen was wounded in the incident.

An official source at the Ministry of Interior stated that three terrorist elements armed with automatic rifles stormed the mosque before dawn prayers today and opened fire on the citizen. The mosque had been controlled by terrorist groups before it was annexed to the Awqaf Ministry.

The source added that the citizen died of his wounds and another citizen, 'Atiyah 'Ali 'Atiyah, was wounded in the incident.

Leading cadres in the al-Minya Security Directorate, detective agencies, and the criminology laboratory went to the scene of the incident. Meanwhile, the police continue to search for the perpetrators.

The prosecution has been notified to launch an investigation.

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Policeman Shot Dead in Mallawi

NC2011153194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Policemen in Mallawi, an Upper Egyptian city in al-Minya Governorate, this morning found Police Corporal 'Abd-al-Hamid Fu'ad Ibrahim, from the Abu-Qurqas Police Force in al-Minya, shot dead. A responsible security source stated that the Mallawi Police Station received a report that Ibrahim's body had been found on the agricultural road between al-Mahras and 'Izbat Yakan villages. The policeman was off duty and was tending his field in al-Mahras village.

Criminal laboratory experts arrived at the scene of the incident and the police are investigating the matter.

Commentary Blames Donor Countries for Gaza Incident

NC1911145794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The International Community Must Act To Help the Palestinian People and To Back the Peace Process Before It Is Too Late"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days before the start of his European tour, President Husni Mubarak propounded Egypt's clear and honest stand on issues in the Arab arena during two meetings he had with the AP NEWS AGENCY and Television and the British paper THE TIMES. He did so on the basis of his experience and knowledge, in hopes of making Europe and even the whole world assume their responsibility before the situation in this vital part of the world, whose security is directly linked to that of the rest of the world including Europe, deteriorates to where it cannot be dealt with.

President Mubarak discussed the issue of peace with Israel on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. He warned of the dangers caused by the international community's delay and dithering in extending financial and economic aid to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the Gaza Strip, even though the donor countries made pledges several months ago. He stressed that this would have a negative effect on the peace process and that the Gaza Strip would turn into another Afghanistan with all the inherent grave dangers for all the countries of the world in general, and especially for the European countries that are giving shelter to some terrorist elements. President Mubarak also underlined the importance of a rapid peace agreement between Syria and Israel based on the principle of land for peace, adding that any delay on this track would negatively affect the entire peace process.

President Mubarak's comments about the situation in the Gaza Strip were shown to be true a few hours after he said them. A clash regrettably took place between the Palestinian police and members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic al-Jihad. The clash claimed 13 lives and more than 200 were wounded. We regard this as a regrettable incident and a disgrace for the whole Palestinian people, who have paid a heavy price over dozens of years in order to regain their territory and their legitimate right to their national soil.

Additionally, this painful incident tarnishes the image of the PA, weakens its status in future negotiations with Israel, and shows it to be incapable of maintaining security within the self-rule areas. We hold all the sons of Gaza responsible for what happened and for any possible armed clashes that might take place. But it is only fair to add that the countries that have pledged to give financial aid to the PA also share a major responsibility for this, because of their delay in giving aid to the Palestinian people, aid that is in dire need so that they can rebuild the whole infrastructure of the Palestinian state. The Palestinian people are suffering from difficult economic conditions and from unemployment. This facilitates the work of any extremist group, regardless of its slogans, that wants to impede the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process, which is the pivot of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mubarak's prediction of what would happen in the Gaza Strip has come true. Hence, anyone interested in stability in the Middle East and in achieving a just and comprehensive peace, led by the United States and Europe with all their political and economic weight, must act quickly to achieve two things:

1. Speed up the donor countries' financial aid to the Palestinian people before the situation there deteriorates dangerously as a result of the citizens' bad economic conditions and the PA's inability to meet its commitments.

2. Convince Israel before it is too late of the need to speed up the negotiations with the Palestinian and Syrian sides now that the their desire to reach a just peace with Israel has been proved in practice to the whole world. Consequently, Israel has to abandon all its attempts to impede the negotiating process and must meet the two sides halfway.

I must say a word to the Palestinian people in Gaza and tell them: Fear God for the sake of your country. Enough people have been killed and wounded. Unite and rally behind your legitimate leadership so that you can complete the process of construction and liberation. You will gain nothing from fighting around the mosques and in the streets, for Israel will be the only beneficiary.

Mubarak's recent warnings in the U.S. and British press must be taken seriously by the international community, because they are responsible warnings from a statesman who has been working for a just peace for several years while simultaneously working for his people's prosperity and well-being.

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Kuwait

Russian Prime Minister, Delegation Visit

Chernomyrdin Arrives

LD2011131694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Viktor Chernomyrdin, prime minister of the Russian Federation, arrived in our country at 1400 this afternoon on a three-day official visit to the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin Gives Statement

LD2011095094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Nov—In a press statement today, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin affirmed that the implementation by the Iraqi regime of all the UN resolutions relating to the Kuwaiti liberation war was the axis of Russia's stand toward the issue of a settlement in the Gulf area.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-QABAS, Chernomyrdin explained that Russia looks forward to participating in guaranteeing security in the area without the use of military concentrations. He affirmed that he preferred the methods of peaceful settlement, politics, and diplomacy.

The Russian official pointed to the role of his country in containing the crisis that was created by the Iraqi regime in October, and explained the role of his country in forcing Iraq to recognize the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and its international borders in accordance with the UN Resolution No. 833.

Chernomyrdin referred to strengthening military contacts between the two countries according to the cooperation agreement in the defense field that was signed on 29 November 1993. He also affirmed that his visit to the State of Kuwait was aimed at establishing a strong legal basis for developing Russian-Kuwaiti relations in firm foundations, and in several fields starting with trade and economic cooperation and cultural exchange. Chernomyrdin stressed his country's wish to establish direct contacts with the Kuwaiti businessmen, pointing out that this issue will be discussed at the expected meeting with officials of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Trade and Industry and Kuwaiti businessmen. It is recalled that Chernomyrdin's visit to Kuwait is the first of its kind by a Russian prime minister in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Russian prime minister is scheduled to arrive in the State of Kuwait later today, coming from Riyadh within the framework of a one-week tour that will also take him to the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

Oman

Iran's Velayati Arrives With President's Message

LD2111111494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Muscat, the capital of Oman, at noon today. Mr. Velayati, who is bearing a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for Sultan Qabus, left soon after his arrival for the town of (?Nazwa) to meet sultan.

Saudi Arabia

Russian Prime Minister, Delegation Visit

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Riyadh

LD1911113894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 19 Nov 94 (SPA)—Mr. Viktor Chernomyrdin, his excellency the prime minister of the Russian Federation, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on an official visit to the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime Minister and commander of the National Guard, welcomed his excellency at the King Khalid International Aiport.

King Fahd Meets Chernomyrdin

LD2011112294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2123 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 19 Nov—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, The custodian of the two holy mosques, today received the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at his office at the al-Yamamah palace, who conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques the greetings and esteem of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The meeting was attended by his royal highness Prince 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy Prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, his excellency Ibrahim al-'Anquari, the private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, his excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, his excellency 'Abd al-Khuwaytir, the minister of education and escorting minister, and 'Abd al-'Aziz Khawjah, the ambassador of the kingdom to Russia.

The reception was also attended by the members of the delegation that is accompanying Mr. Chernomyrdin, and it includes: Valeriy Kokov, president of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic and member of the Federation Council,

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Murtaza Rakhimov, president of the Republic of Bashkortostan and member of the Federation Council, Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, Artur Chillingarov, deputy chairman of the State Duma, Oleg Davydov, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations, Gennadiy Bitilin, director of the Office of the Prime Minister, and Gennadiy Tarasov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom.

Bilateral Economic Accord Signed

NC2011110994 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 20 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia and Russia on Sunday [20 November] signed an agreement for economic and cultural cooperation which Moscow hailed as a historic step in ties between the two countries.

The deal calls for a committee of officials and businessmen from both countries tasked with developing programs for economic cooperation, Russia's ambassador to Riyadh, Gennadiy Tarasov, told AFP.

It is "an important historic step in relations between the two countries," he added.

The deal, which comes during Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's first visit to Saudi Arabia, was signed by Chernomyrdin's deputy for foreign economic relations Oleg Davydov and Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl.

Chernomyrdin has met King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East, a Saudi official said.

Saudi Arabia is the first leg of a six-day tour of the Arab Gulf states, the first by a Russian head of government to the region. He also is due to visit Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Economic Ministers Meet

LD2011201494 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 20, SPA—The minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, met at the conference palace here on Sunday with the Russian Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Economic Affairs Oleg Davidov.

During the meeting, the two ministers signed a general agreement between the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and government of Federal Republic of Russia which was designed to reinforce economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation between the two countries. The agreement involves industrial, petroleum and mineral projects and setting up of joint ventures and training facilities. It also stipulate the appliance of the most favoured nation (MFN) attitude on trade exchange and encouragement of joint investment projects with providing adequate protection and guarantees.

The agreement also aimed to promote cooperation in scientific, cultural, youth and sports fields including exchange of researchs and visits and coordination on international youth forums.

The agreement includes the formation of a joint commission composes of senior officials from both countries to follow-up the implementation of the agreement.

The meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador to Moscow, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah, the undersecretary of the minister of finance and national economy for economic cooperation, Dr Jobara al-Seraisri and many officials of the mininstry.

Following the signature ceremony, Minister Aba-al-Khayl termed the agreement as a frame for the regulation of the mutual cooperation on various economic, commercial, technical and cultural fields.

"No doubt cooperation with a big country like Russia with numerous economic potentialities would benefit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and would open markets and industrial opportunities for the kingdom and its joint ventures," he said.

He expressed delight on representing the kingdom in signing the important agreement.

Prince Saud on Seeking Better Ties

LD2111130894 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 21, SPA—Prince Saud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has reiterated the keenness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on enhancing its relations with Russia.

In a statement to BBC yesterday, following his meeting with Russian Premier Victor Chernomyrdin, Prince Saud said they had reviewed means of diplomatic coordination and international contacts between the two countries.

We have also discussed issues of mutual interest like the situation in Iraq and the measures taken by the Security Council in this respect, he said.

We wished that the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait would be followed by the implementation of all resolutions adopted by the Security Council with the guarantee of the Security Council so as to pave the way for enhancing the pillars of stability in the region, Prince Saud added.

Asked if the Kingdom would support the efforts exerted by Russia to lift sanctions imposed on Iraq, Prince Saud said "as the Russian Minister Kozyrev had earlier

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explained to us, Russia was not fighting for lifting the sanctions, but it was trying to implement the resolutions of the Security Council".

Prince Saud added "the sanctions were imposed on Iraq as a result of measures taken by Iraq and they would be lifted when they become unjustified".

When the resolutions of the Security [Council] are implemented, then the sanctions will be lifted, said Prince Saud and added "I believe that this is very clear for us and Russia and even for Iraq".

On the Saudi-Russian talks on the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prince Saud said this issue was one of the major topics reviewed by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Russian Premier Chernomyrdin at their meeting.

Russia is capable of playing an important role in this respect and in particular in persuading the Serbs to accept the proposed peaceful solutions, he added.

Chernomyrdin on Results of Visit

LD2011212294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed his pleasure and that of his accompanying delegation at visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a news conference held today at the end of his visit to the kingdom, he said: Our meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd was very good. We exchanged views about our stances on bilateral relations. I would like to point out with satisfaction that our stances vis-a-vis numerous issues in this region and other issues were similar and close.

In the news conference, Chernomyrdin talked about the general agreement signed today between the kingdom and Russia. He said: We are convinced that this general agreement will give fresh impetus to the development of our bilateral relations. We are also convinced that we have enormous capabilities for developing our bilateral relations. These capabilities could be and must be used fully.

The Russian prime minister said that his visit to the kingdom was of a political and economic nature. He pointed out the kingdom's weight and special role in the region, in addition to the region's geographic position in relation to his country [sentence as heard].

Regarding the nature of his visit to the region, Chernomyrdin said: We have very wide interests in this region. We believe that Russia's policy in this region heralds peace and stability for the region's states. The other issue, which is of no less importance, is economic relations. We believe our bilateral and economic relations with some of the region's states are almost zero. We consider that zero does not meet Russia's interest nor does it meet the interests of the peoples of these states.

The Russian prime minister was asked a question that included explaining Russia's stance vis-a-vis Iraq. He said: Our stance on the issue of Iraq and Kuwait is very clear. He added: We discussed the issue with Saudi leaders yesterday and today, and we shall discuss it in Kuwait tomorrow. In brief, our stance is clear. We are trying to achieve peace and stability in this region. We have made efforts for Iraqi recognition of the borders and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait. This has been achieved. We are making efforts for something else that is no less important in view of Russia being a permanent member of the UN Security Council; namely, the full implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution on this issue.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said: We are not in favor of lifting the arms embargo. We do not support nor do we welcome the resumption of fighting. We are trying to settle all the problems by peaceful means and by negotiations. We will continue our action in that particular direction.

Chernomyrdin talked about economic aspects of his visit. He referred to his meeting with Saudi businessmen and stressed his country's great interest in economic relations with the kingdom.

On telephone communications and flights between his country and the kingdom, he said: We have discussed these two issues. I believe that they require in-depth studies. He added: I believe that there will be a solution in the future.

In reply to a question on when exactly Russians would support lifting the embargo on Iraq's oil exports, Chernomyrdin said: The lifting of the embargo on Iraq is an important issue. I believe that this issue has to be resolved, and I hope that it would be resolve in the future.

He added: The embargo will be lifted providing Iraq implements the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the issue. He went on to say: I believe the people of Iraq deserve a normal, good life, as well as the chance to co-exist with their neighbors.

On investment in Russia and the problem of the mafia, he said: I do not believe that it would be essential to get rid of the mafia before enacting laws and attracting investments. I believe that everything cannot be done at the same time.

He added: We will combat the mafia problem, which is a significant problem. However, investment is an important and essential question and meets the interests of Russia and those of investors.

On Russia's role in the Middle East peace process being weaker than that of the United States and how he interpreted that, he said: Indeed, the United States is

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more active than Russia. Although that is true, we will make efforts to bring our activities to the same level.

Chernomyrdin Departs Riyadh

LD2011114294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Nov SPA—His excellency Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left Riyadh this afternoon at the end of a two-day official visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at King Khalid International airport by his royal highness Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives on Visit

Says Ties 'Excellent'

LD2011172794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1501 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden, 20 Nov—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today that the Iranian Government considered the Iraqi recognition of the sovereignty and the borders of the State of Kuwait a positive step that should be followed by other steps toward full implementation of international resolutions. This was said in a statement by Velayati to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, KUNA, on arrival here today on the first visit of its kind to Yemen by an Iranian foreign minister since the end of the civil war in Yemen on 7 July last year.

Velayati said that his country hoped that all the pending problems among neighbors in the region would be settled in the near future.

He added that Iran had always maintained its stance of stressing the need for establishing cooperation among the countries of the region in order to achieve progress towards peace, stability, and to established security in the region.

Regarding Yemeni-Iranian relations, the Iranian minister said: They are excellent and have recently undergone positive developments that bolstered them.

He went on to say that the aim of his official visit to Yemen, which would last for a few days, was to meet Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and hold talks with him on bilateral relations and issues concerning them in the region.

Meets With President Salih

LD2011205994 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation met with the President of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Aden Sunday.

The Yemenese president offered his personal respect to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and praised the friendly position of Iran during the civil war in Yemen.

He also indicated the interest of his government to further broaden relations with Iran, in the interest of regional peace and security.

Velayati in response expressed pleasure with the end of fratricide in Yemen saying opposition to the unity of the two Yemens would be to the detriment of the Muslim world.

Upon his arival in Aden Sunday afternoon, the Iranian foreign minister was welcomed at the airport by Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-karim 'Ali al-Iryani.

Velayati said that during the past two years positive developments had occurred in the relations between Iran and Yemen and had prompted exchange of more political delegations between the two countries.

He said Iran stresses on regional cooperation for peace.

The Iranian foreign minister also expressed pleasure with Iraq's territorial recognition of Kuwait and expressed hope that issues between all neighbouring countries of the region would be resolved by negotiations in an amicable manner.

Futher on Salih Meeting

JN2111111194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Aden yesterday. The Iranian minister relayed to the brother president a message from his brother Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani on fraternal bilateral ties, the areas of possible cooperation between the two fraternal states, as well as regional, Islamic, and international issues of common interest.

During the meeting, they reviewed aspects of the fraternal bilateral ties and the ways to promote and enhance them.

During the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister extended his own as well as the Iranian leadership's congratulations to the brother president on the victory for unity and stability achieved in our country. He expressed Iran's eagerness to further enhance and promote its ties with our country to realize the aspirations of the the two fraternal peoples. He also underscored the importance of bilateral coordination and consultations vis-a-vis all issues and developments that concern regional security and stability in order to promote the higher goals of our Islamic nation.

For his part, the brother president reaffirmed our country's eagerness and willingness to promote and enhance

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fraternal bilateral ties and expand the areas of possible bilateral cooperation in order to realize the aspirations of the two countries' peoples, promote their common interests, and bolster stability and security in the region. He praised the Iranian brothers' support for our people when their unity and democratic course were at stake.

The brother president asked the Iranian foreign minister to relay his greetings to his brother President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership, and hoped that fraternal bilateral ties will be further enhanced and promoted.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; members of the delegation accompanying the Iranian minister; and the Iranian ambassador to Yemen.

Meets With Counterpart

JN2111112094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of talks was held between our country and Iran in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of Yemen, yesterday evening. The Yemeni side to the talks was led by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iranian side was led by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The talks addressed the means to promote fraternal bilateral ties, the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, as well as other issues of common interest.

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Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Delegates to United Nations

Meets With Jordanian, Other Envoys

JN1811142194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with several Arab and foreign ambassadors in New York yesterday.

Tariq 'Aziz met at his place of residence with Ambassador Karel Kovanda, permanent representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations; Ambassador 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordanian permanent representative to the United Nations; Ibrahim Gambari, Nigerian permanent representative to the United Nations; and Ambassador Gerardo Martinez Blanco, Honduran permanent representative to the United Nations.

It is widely known that the Czech Republic and Nigeria are members of the UNSC. As for Honduras, it will become a UNSC member on 1 January 1995.

Meets With Nonaligned UNSC Members

NC1811205594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 18 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met today with the nonaligned members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. The 50-minute meeting was attended by the ambassadors of the Sultanate of Oman, Djibouti, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Pakistan and their assistants.

After the meeting, 'Aziz told journalists that he explained to the nonaligned ambassadors Iraq's stance and also answered their questions. He explained that during his current visit to the United Nations he met with the ambassadors of 14 states which are members of the Security Council, in addition to the ambassadors of five states which will become members of the Security Council at the start of next year.

'Aziz said all the 14 ambassadors with whom he met separately expressed their satisfaction with Iraq's decision to recognize Kuwait and the borders and that the majority of the Security Council members wanted to express in a clearer way their appreciation of Iraq's stand and to begin to work to ease the blockade and lift it. He explained: However, one member—the United States—supported by another member—Britain—was against better draft of the recent Security Council statement because this member was against a linkage between Iraq's decision and the sanctions.

'Aziz said: This is a ridiculous and completely illegal stand because the sanctions were imposed on 6 August 1990 in response to events which preceded that date. Following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and the borders and its readiness to establish good neighborly relations with Kuwait, this means that Iraq has implemented the terms and provisions of the Security Council resolutions. The sanctions were imposed for certain reasons; these reasons no longer exist now. Therefore, the sanctions must be lifted.

'Aziz said: The stand of this single member of the Security Council—the United States—is completely illegal. The Security Council must act legally, correctly, and fairly.

Asked about the Kuwaiti missing persons, 'Aziz said he will leave New York for Geneva later today to meet with Mr. Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. He explained that there is a tripartite committee on missing persons, comprising Iraq, Kuwait, and three Western states. This committee is under the auspices of the ICRC and is authorized to examine this subject. He said Iraq attended the meetings of this committee in July and September and approved an ICRC proposal for the formation of technical subcommittee in which Iraq will participate.

'Aziz stressed that Iraq has given 195 answers on 195 persons whose names were submitted by the ICRC. Iraq will fully cooperate in the search for missing persons. He said he will urge Sommaruga to act quickly in this respect. He added that he will also urge Sommaruga to reactivate of the efforts of the ICRC to repatriate the Iraqi prisoners from Iran. These prisoners number over 20,000, according to the ICRC records. He explained that Iraqi prisoners are still in Iranian camps despite the passage of six years since the end of the war.

Tariq 'Aziz, ICRC President Meet in Geneva

NC1911214494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2125 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 19 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met in Geneva this evening with Mr. Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

During the meeting, Mr. 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's eagerness to continue its active and constructive cooperation with the ICRC in investigating the fate of the [word indistinct] missing Kuwaitis. He stressed the need for separating this humanitarian issue from political games and maneuvers and for handling it according to the rules set forth in the Geneva Convention.

Mr. 'Aziz also raised the issue of the Iraqi prisoners, numbering over 20,000, whom Iran has insisted on holding for many years, even though their presence in Iranian detention centers has been ascertained by the ICRC and though military operations have stopped since August 1988.

The deputy prime minister pointed out that the world community must do its utmost to end this grave tragedy, which it has totally ignored in the climate of political reconciliation and [words indistinct] double standards.

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Baghdad Said Ready To Give Data on Biological Arms

NC1911154494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Baghdad headquarters of the committee tasked with destroying the Saddam regime's mass destruction weapons has stated that the authorities in the ruling regime told an international inspection team currently visiting Iraq that they intend to supply it with information on previous military programs in the biological field. However, the source did not give a date for this.

In a report carried by MENA today, the source noted that a team made up of six UN experts specializing in biological weapons is now in Baghdad for that purpose. The source referred to the recent visit by (Charles Dulliver), deputy chairman of the UN Special Committee, to Baghdad. The source noted that Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, official in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization in Iraq, had promised (Dulliver] during their meeting to supply the information requested by the committee on Iraq's previous biological arms programs.

Official: U.S., UK Trying To Strangle Country

NC1811161594 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 18 (AFP)—An Iraqi official on Friday [18 November] accused the United States and Britain of trying to squeeze the life out of his country by opposing the easing of international sanctions.

"The lifting of sanctions would allow Iraq to buy medicines and food, but that has become impossible after the underhand veto against it by the heinous American-British pairing," said Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, an official with the ruling Ba'th party.

A trade and oil embargo has crippled the Iraqi economy since it was imposed after Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The UN Security Council on Monday renewed the embargo for another six months despite Iraq's formal recognition of Kuwait and its borders last week, one of the key conditions for the lifting of sanctions.

Washington and London demanded that any easing of sanctions be tied to a host of other issues including compliance with the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and progress on human rights.

Hammudi, quoted by Ba'th party newspaper AL-THAWRAH, said the United Nations "is urged to study the Russian proposal in favour of lifting the embargo on Iraq."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said after a visit to Baghdad in October he would work for an easing of sanctions by the Security Council, in return for an Iraqi pledge to recognise Kuwait.

Baghdad has rejected a UN resolution allowing for partial sales of oil to allow it to meet its humanitarian needs. It says the strict UN controls required would infringe on its sovereignty.

Minister: Country To Attend Bali OPEC Conference

JN1911145794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq will attend the 97th OPEC conference in Bali, in Indonesia, Monday, 21 November. Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad told INA that Iraq's participation reflects its faith in the organization as a defender of the interests of its members and oil consumers, and as a stabilizing market factor. Iraq will play a positive role in the discussions on the conference's agenda to promote decisions furthering OPEC's cohesion. The conference, the minister added, will discuss the situation of oil on the world market and fix OPEC's production ceiling for all or part of 1995. It will also look into the matter of naming a new OPEC secretary general, a post for which there are candidates from Venezuela, Nigeria and Iran.

He noted that the price of an oil barrel is far below the $21 floor set by OPEC, costing producers considerable losses in oil revenues.

Dr. Jawad said Iraq, over the past four years, has been denied its natural right and positive role in the world market, but will return to the market with added strength. Its return will help market stability and enhance OPEC's unity and cohesion, Dr. Jawad added.

* Envoy in Bangkok Comments on Allies, UN Deals

95SE0016A Bangkok THAN SETTHAKIT in Thai 16-19 Oct 94 pp 1, 27

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Fa'iz Al-Gaylani, charge d'affaires in Bangkok, on 11 October; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a time of tension stemming from all the rumors that have been flying about, Mr. Fa'iz Al-Gaylani, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Thailand, gave an exclusive interview to THAN SETTHAKIT on 11 October. [passage omitted]

"This is just an attempt to smear us. The United States has released reports stating that Iraq has mobilized 50,000 troops along the border with Kuwait. Actually, there are only 14,000 troops there. They are there to participate in normal military training exercises. They need to train there, because the terrain is different from in the north, where the terrain is mountainous. The

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southern part of the country is desert. This was rear-type training. But when people became alarmed, thinking that Iraq was going to attack Kuwait, and allies of Iraq on the UN Security Council expressed alarm about this, Iraq decided to halt the exercise and began removing its 14,000 troops from the border on 11 October. But American forces are still there, and the number continues to increase. The United States is playing a political game. They are using this as an excuse to keep the UN from lifting the economic embargo against Iraq, which went into effect in 1990. Their objective is to keep putting pressure on Iraq and gradually weaken us. We cannot accept this and want the United Nations to understand this," said the Iraqi charge about the situation. He added that many countries sympathize and side with Iraq. That is, they want the United Nations to lift the embargo that prohibits Iraq from exporting oil. Three members of the UN Security Council, that is, Russia, China, and France, are considered to be "allies" of Iraq. Besides these, there are also Arab countries and nonaligned countries. In England, some officials agree and others don't. "The important thing is that Iraq is acting in accord with the UN resolution and is willing to allow UN inspectors to inspect various projects in Iraq. In their reports, inspectors said that they were satisfied. Thus, we think that changes should be made."

The four-year economic embargo and resolution prohibiting Iraq from exporting oil has had a serious effect on the economy of Iraq, which, like many other countries in the Middle East, relies on oil exports to generate income. The poverty that has arisen has shaken the political stability of Iraq's leaders. This is the reason why Iraq must do something to have the embargo lifted as soon as possible.

The Iraqi charge said that in the past, Iraq submitted a proposal to the United Nations asking for permission to export $4 billion worth of oil. In return, Iraq would donate a percentage of its income to the United Nations. The United Nations could then use that money to help Third World countries such as Somalia and Rwanda. But its request was rejected. Today, Iraq has announced that it is ready to negotiate and use diplomatic means to solve the problems. Such measures were successful in the case of Haiti. And diplomatic measures are being used to solve the Israel-Palestine problem.

"I think that what we must do now is ask our allies, including countries on the Security Council and other countries around the world, such as Thailand, to talk with the United States and get it to change its perception of Iraq. We want the United States to stop using its rules to put pressure on Iraq and other countries in the world. Such actions are unacceptable." Last week, there were reports that Mr. Nizar Hamdun, the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations, had submitted a proposal stating that Iraq will recognize the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait if the UN Security Council promises to lift the embargo on the export of oil in the near future. This may be part of the "new means" that the Iraqi charge referred to.

The Iraqi charge observed that Iraq has the second largest amount of oil reserves in the world after Saudi Arabia. Thus, there are several countries that do not want Iraq to begin exporting oil again, because that would increase the amount of oil on world markets, which would compete with their oil. Also, oil prices would decline.

"There are many poor countries that are trying to solve their economic problems by preventing Iraq from entering the oil market again. That is not a fair way to solve those problems."

As for the United States playing the role of world policeman, the Iraqi charge said, "I do not think that the United States is the world's policeman, because a policeman must respect the law. But the United States is like a cowboy who uses his pistol to force others to do what he wants. In the past, we tried to negotiate directly with the United States. We proposed meeting with members of Congress. We submitted our proposal through one of our allies. But the United States refused. We have, however, met with their UN delegate several times. I think that the only way to solve the problems is to sit down and discuss matters and reach an understanding."

UN Envoy Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

NC1811193594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 18 Nov (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the United Nations over U.S. aircraft's violation of Iraqi airspace for the purpose of reconnaissance, provocation, and dropping thermal flares [masha'il hararyah].

In a memorandum sent to the UN secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi UN permanent representative said from 1 to 10 November, U.S. aircraft carried out 510 aggressive sorties over several area in Iraqi, in addition to reconnaissance sorties and dropping thermal flares.

The Iraqi permanent representative asked that the memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Paper Terms UN Statement 'Positive Development'

JN1811135494 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has today confirmed that the welcome issued by the UN Security Council with regard to Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait represents an essential positive development in the frame of commitments of the United Nations in the manner serving all of the parties concerned with implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

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The daily added in an article today that the UN Security Council welcome was issued with the insistence of Russia, France and China on issuing a statement by the Council's president evaluating the Iraqi step and that this means that more than half of the permanent member states in the council were strongly standing by achieving the credibility that the council had to adopt.

The newspaper has further said that, if added to that the opinion of the total number of non-permanent members of the Council, the image shows the great majority that has begun to deal positively with Iraq and its legitimate demands of implementing the item 22 of the Resolution 687.

The daily has stressed failure of the American manoeuvre in the formation of an opinion inside the council against this trend. And this in itself emphasizes a fact that the international unanimity for acknowledging the positives of the Iraqi stand has registered an important and central point towards lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq.

Paper Says Egypt's Mubarak Echoes U.S. Stand

JN1911105194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0707 GMT 19 Sep 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has ignored all principles of polite speech.

In an article today, the paper, which is specialized in military affairs, adds that Husni Mubarak reiterates whatever the United States says about the issue of lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and that his stand has become a consistent and discordant echo of the U.S. Administration's stand.

The paper says: It is amazing and disgusting to hear Husni not welcoming Iraq's decision to recognize Kuwait, a decision which he regarded as insufficient promises and ink on paper, although the UN Security Council itself issued a statement by its president welcoming Iraq's decision and describing it as an "important, positive step."

The paper indicates that in his insinuations against Iraq and its people and leader, Hunsi Mubarak wants to be the best echo of the discordant U.S. voice under all circumstances.

The paper concludes: The will of peoples will drown the treasonous dwarfs. Beloved Egypt is a great volcano which will pour out its wrath to burn those who betray their people and nation.

Opposition: Regime Arrests Officers, 1,000 Others

NC1911194694 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Nov 19 (AFP)—The Iraqi authorities have arrested more than 1,000 people around the country, including several army officers, the opposition said Saturday [19 November].

In a communique released here, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an opposition coalition of Arab and Kurdish groups, named only General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, commander of Al-Bakr air force base north of Baghdad, among those rounded up.

Most of the arrests took place in Baghdad, Mosul and al-Ramadi, the coalition, which is based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

The INC did not say when the arrests took place.

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'Terrorists' Wound IDF Soldier at Netzarim Junction

TA1911201394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was wounded by terrorists' gunfire. An Air Force helicopter was summoned to the scene to transfer the wounded soldier to a hospital. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan, who was at the junction at the time of the attack, reported that about an hour ago the soldiers were fired upon from a car which was coming from the south and fled in the direction of Gaza. Our correspondent passed the junction a few minutes earlier and saw that the IDF soldiers were manning their positions. Large forces have been summoned to search the area.

Hamas Takes Responsibility; Soldier Dies

TA2011060094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Sergeant Gil Dadon from Bat Yam will be laid to rest at 1400 today in the Qiryat Sha'ul military cemetery. Staff Sergeant Dadon was killed yesterday in a terrorist drive-by attack at Netzarim junction. Dadon, who was manning an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost at the junction, was hit by automatic weapons fire from a passing car. The soldiers manning the outpost returned fire, ran to the road, and continued firing at the car which drove on and disappeared to the north.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan notes that Gil Dadon was a member of the reserve unit that lost three soldiers at Netzarim junction last week. The IDF commander in the area said he would meet Palestinian Police representatives today to work out procedures for preventing the recurrence of such incidents at the junction.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] took responsibility for the attack.

Cabinet Briefed on Gaza Events, Netzarim Incident

TA2011103694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet this morning received a detailed briefing on the weekend's events in the Gaza Strip. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, acting prime minister, spoke about the economic hardship in the Gaza Strip and added that the international aid which has failed to materialize so far, the closure on Gaza, and the long wait at the border crossings also cause difficulties. Peres said the Palestinian Authority [PA] lacks the funds necessary to pay salaries to the Palestinian policemen.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq briefed the ministers about the incidents at Netzarim Junction. According to Baraq, the PA did not carry out its duty, because it is obliged to prevent the riots there.

Minister Shim'on Shetrit criticized the chief of staff's remarks regarding the Palestinian Police. Shetrit believes we should examine what Israel is doing rather than what the PA is not doing. Shetrit also reiterated his demand to carry our a revision in the Oslo agreement.

Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish spoke of the vital need to strengthen PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the economic sphere, while pursuing the pressure aimed at inducing him to fight terrorism.

Ministers Discuss Gaza Situation

TA2011180094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Uneasiness about the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] abandoning the Netzarim outpost on 18 November was voiced at today's cabinet session. Shim'on Peres sanctioned the move, which he described as a wise decision that averted major bloodshed. Yosi Sarid, too, welcomed the move, explaining that it corresponds with the Oslo agreement and the circumstances.

Other ministers, however, were uncertain. Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer did not dispute the decision itself, merely the impression it has given. Shim'on Shetrit criticized the decision and the chief of staff's remarks; he rejected the claim that the Palestinian police had defaulted. Baraq responded that the charge should be addressed to the government and not the IDF. Incidentally, the chief of staff rejected the allegation that the Netzarim Junction IDF troops are inadequately equipped.

Ministers Ya'ir Tzaban and Ora Namir again claimed that the evacuation of Netzarim must be discussed. 'Uzi Bar'am echoed their demand. [passage omitted]

The cabinet was apprehensive about the outcome of Gaza's economic distress. Shim'on Peres insisted that Israel should immediately transfer to the Palestinians a lump sum of the custom levies, which are handed over to them monthly anyway. The tax stands at 15 million shekels a month, and the sum of several months would give the Palestinians 50 million shekels, alleviating their plight. Avraham Shohat had reservations; he feared Israel may find itself financing the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The most interesting part of the cabinet meeting may have been the security elements' report that, although Yasir 'Arafat's situation is quite difficult indeed, he is fighting for his achievements. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 20 November adds: "The Likud faction says the government is responsible for the events around the IDF

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outpost at Netzarim. Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav said the Oslo agreement's implementation must be put on hold until 'Arafat and his aides are able to control events in Gaza.

["Speaking of the IDF standing order to abandon the Netzarim outpost, Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said it is an unprecedented disgrace. He said the commanders and the political echelons were fully responsible for the orders. With regard to the demand that the Netzarim settlement be evacuated, the Tzomet leader said: That is what the Judenrat said in the ghetto. Our leadership has become a community council."]

Rabin on Gaza Unrest, Meeting With Ross, Indyk

TA1911192394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that at this stage Israelis should talk less on the struggle between the Palestinian Authority and the extremist Muslim organizations. Speaking to Israeli journalists in New York, the prime minister said that this is an internal Palestinian affair the significance of which exceeds the events themselves and that, consequently, it is best to leave it to the Palestinians to deal with. Mr. Rabin added that the Palestinians apparently want to realize that which they are seeking to attain through the Oslo and Cairo processes and that the less the Israelis give advise and deal with the internal affairs of the Palestinians the better it will be for the issue itself and for Israel.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 November adds: "Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports from New York that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred today with Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk. The two told him that the Syrians are prepared to resume the peace talks in Washington with the participation of military advisers."]

Rabin To Proceed 'Cautiously' With Palestinians

TA2011195594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Video report by U.S.-based correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister is about to leave New York and fly to Washington, where he is due to hold talks at the White House. This afternoon Mr. Rabin commented on the latest events in the Gaza Strip:

[Begin Rabin recording] We expect the Palestinian element to be responsible for what goes in Gaza, but, just as we cannot prevent every terrorist incident, they will be unable to totally prevent every terrorist incident even if they do their very best. I believe, however, that continued activity by the Palestinian Authority in spheres within its jurisdiction and by us in spheres for which we are responsible.... [pauses] I think it will be a grave mistake to stop the process, because that will reward enemies of peace who aim to kill the peace process, in addition to Israelis. [end recording]

[Ahime'ir] The prime minister was asked whether Yasir 'Arafat is losing control of the situation.

[Begin Rabin recording] I sincerely hope he is not, because what alternative do we have? Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? Will that be better? [end recording]

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 November carries a report from New York by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, who adds: "Speaking tonight at a situation-analysis session at his hotel, the prime minister said that in his opinion 'Arafat's crucial Gaza test is approaching, although it has not yet come. Rabin believes that, despite the very difficult conditions, 'Arafat is still in control of the Strip, and he rejected the calls to stop the peace process in the wake of the events. Rabin added, however, that the process should be pursued slowly and very cautiously." Rabin says in a recorded passage: "We must continue, but we should decide on the pace on the basis of lessons learned from past events. Furthermore, we should decide on the content of future negotiations."]

Rabin Confirms Orders To Kill 'Terrorist' Leaders

TA2111111294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that the security forces should either arrest or liquidate the leaders of radical Islamic terrorism who are responsible for organizing attacks against Israelis and trying to kill the peace process. Rabin thus made it clear for the first time in public that he had instructed the security forces to assassinate terrorist leaders.

The prime minister said it is very difficult to foil the kind of suicide attacks that have caused most of the fatalities among Israelis over the past year. "Nevertheless," Rabin said, "we must locate and then either arrest or liquidate the organizers of these terrorist activities."

Rabin, who is visiting the United States, said that the peace process will continue, even if at a slower pace, because 'Arafat and the PLO are the best partners for negotiations, with the alternative being Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

Reacting to the attack at Netzarim junction in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed, Rabin said that the Palestinian Authority and Yasir 'Arafat are responsible for preventing terrorist attacks in the Gaza

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Strip. Rabin said the Palestinians must show the same determination as Israel in fighting terrorism. [passage omitted]

Rabin Accuses Elements of Spreading Lies in U.S.

TA2111071294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin launched an unprecedented attack on those Israelis who, in his words, are spreading lies in the United States in order to prevent the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace agreement between Syria and Israel. The chances of promoting such an agreement will be among the main issues Prime Minister Rabin will discuss this evening with his host, President Clinton. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Several hours before meeting with President Clinton, the prime minister visited the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Rabin, in a very feisty mood, called on the embassy staff to confront those Israeli elements who are conducting activity in the United States to prevent the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights, despite the fact that it was the Likud Government under Menahem Begin, Rabin claimed, that requested the stationing of U.S. troops in the Sinai Peninsula in the framework of the peace treaty with Egypt.

[Rabin] To come today and say that this will be unacceptable if and when we reach a peace treaty with Syria is not only stupid but also the very height of hypocrisy.

[Golan] If the United States will not provide the peace with military backing, Mr. Rabin continued, it will miss the current opportunity. The prime minister then returned to the matter of those Israelis, whose name he did not mention, who encourage this trend.

[Rabin] The statements made by those Israelis who try to encourage isolationism and who lie to the American people and Congress about a reality created by a government that was led by a man who had both the courage and the vision to bring about a historic breakthrough—and I am referring to the late Menahem Begin—will undermine the relationship between Israel and the United States.

[Golan] Later on, the prime minister mentioned the 50 F-16's and dozens of helicopters Israel has recently received from the United States. Rabin cynically noted that he hopes those particular Israelis will not also hurt the defense aid. He then called on the staff of the Israeli Embassy in Washington to continue strengthening the special relationship between the United States and Israel.

[Rabin] Do not listen to all this nonsense being voiced today ostensibly out of concern for the American people. Its real aim is to sabotage any chances for peace. It is not the Americans who initiate this. It is Israelis who are acting with criminal irresponsibility, and you will have to confront the lies they are spreading here.

[Golan] If these Israelis cease their meddling, Rabin said, the United States will continue to support Israel even after the political turnabout in the Congress; however, the prime minister stressed, the vagaries of Israeli domestic politics should not be allowed to influence our relations with the United States.

[Rabin] Our policies should remain constant. It is wrong to introduce dirty politics into our relationship with the United States.

[Golan] This evening, the prime minister will attempt to determine the extent to which domestic U.S. politics, which are also not particularly clean, will impact on the continuation of the peace process. [end recording]

Rabinovich on Stationing U.S. Troops on Golan

TA2111082394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan in Tel Aviv—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] We now have Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich on the line. Good day.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Friedman] To whom was Rabin referring last night in Washington when he spoke about Israeli elements who are spreading lies and deception in the United States and acting against the government's policies?

[Rabinovich] Had the prime minister wanted to go into detail, he would have done so. I do not want to elaborate either; however, we know that part of the activities with regard to the possible stationing of U.S. supervisory forces in the event of an arrangement on the Golan Heights are directed from Israel.

[Friedman] Are you implying that the statements by Senators Helms and Dole against stationing U.S. troops on the Golan Heights are not exactly the traditional positions of conservative, neoisolationist Republican senators, but rather the result of successful Likud lobbying efforts in the United States?

[Rabinovich] Incidentally, Dole mentioned this issue specifically, while Helms spoke more in general about the Syrian-Israeli negotiations track. Of course, nobody is suggesting that these positions were imported exclusively from Israel. There are elements in the United States who are opposed to any form of foreign involvement and others who do not understand exactly what this entails and believe we are talking about some sort of peacekeeping activity by these troops.

[Dan] So what exactly are we talking about?

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[Rabinovich] First of all, we are still not talking about anything concrete, because there is no agreement. The issue will only become relevant in the event that we reach an agreement, which we hope will indeed happen. Any such agreement will also include security arrangements, which will be rather complex in the Israeli-Syrian case, and these arrangements will have to be monitored just as they have been monitored in the Sinai Peninsula ever since the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. In this case, we will emulate the model set by the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, and the Israeli Government prefers the stationing of a multinational force, with a dominant U.S. component.

[Friedman] Yesterday, I believe, the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT disclosed that Israel and the United States disagree with regard to the size of the U.S. forces that may be stationed on the Golan Heights in the future. According to the newspaper, Israel wants 1,000 U.S. soldiers, while the Americans want 5,000. Do these figures approximate the numbers under discussion?

[Rabinovich] This is a good opportunity to set things straight. Since our discussion remains theoretical and security arrangements have not been decided, one cannot say whether 800 or 1,200 soldiers will be needed. If one U.S. battalion can monitor the far larger territory of Sinai, however, this provides a good indication of the scope of manpower that may be needed in the event of an arrangement between Syria and Israel. Now, there were people in the United States who, in the framework of this theoretical argument, said that a brigade would be needed on the Golan Heights. If a brigade has to be on regular call. then you are actually sidelining an entire division, because you have to rotate the division's various brigades. This means removing an entire division from the U.S. Army's order of battle. We are not interested in a division or in creating the impression that this is some sort of fighting force, because we are definitely not talking about U.S. troops participating in the defense of Israel. This is the last thing we want to bring about. We are merely referring to a monitoring force. The U.S. battalion in Sinai is composed mainly of reservists and volunteers and thus does not even cost the U.S. Army one battalion.

[Dan] Amb. Rabinovich, we hear that Clinton is about to urge Rabin to officially recognize Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Can Clinton indeed expect Rabin to take such a step?

[Rabinovich] A minute ago, you asked me about the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT article about this ostensible argument with the United States regarding the size of the U.S. monitoring force. Such an argument never took place. The meeting between the prime minister and President Clinton will only take place tomorrow, so I cannot deny what has not yet happened. Judging by what I know, however, and on the basis of the preparatory meetings we held, I find it very difficult to imagine that such a request will be made.

[Friedman] Is Clinton capable of pushing through a new Congress, in which he does not enjoy a majority, a proposal to station U.S. troops on the Golan Heights as part of an international force? Is the presence of U.S. troops a prerequisite for a stable agreement between Israel and Syria?

[Rabinovich] First of all, we should remember what is under discussion. Today we are dealing with an attempt to reach a Syrian-Israeli agreement. The argument over the possibility of stationing U.S. soldiers on the Golan Heights in the future to monitor an agreement that has yet to be achieved is tantamount to arguing about an egg that has yet to hatch. These ideas are not completely new. We have been dealing with the issue for the past six months, and the attempt to place it on the U.S. agenda is not new. For some time, we and our supporters have been arguing that this discussion is premature and to some extent also hampers us in the negotiations. Obviously, we do not want to be perceived as attempting to prevent discussion of a matter that may become a real issue for the Americans.

[Dan] Thank you, Ambassador Rabinovich.

Peres on Gaza Violence, Confronting Hamas

TA1911134494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Shlomi Stein; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Stein] Israel waited a long time for this moment. Two or three weeks ago the prime minister called on Yasir 'Arafat to choose between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Israel. Apparently they have now been forced to choose Israel.

[Peres] I do not think so. I think they must choose between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas. I would not describe it as a war for Israel's sake but as a war for the Palestinian people's sake. Look, in every nation there is room for diverse opinions, but there is no room for separate military or police authorities; that would be a real disaster. Here is an organization that has taken up arms and has been shooting indiscriminately. This jeopardizes the PA, first and foremost. What the Palestinians are doing is defending themselves, not us.

[Stein] The sights we see bring to mind the intifadah, only this time the target is 'Arafat and his men. Israel must be very worried since he is the man with whom it made an agreement, and his status is now in question.

[Peres] Israel always worried about the intifadah, regardless of who its target was. The question is: What is more logical, that we tackle it or the Palestinians? The intifadah is a Palestinian form of expression, and, consequently, it is the Palestinians who should resolve it. This struggle has created a more natural and balanced situation than existed before.

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[Stein] What must Israel do now? Should it help the PLO and the PA?

[Peres] Israel must not interfere in this issue. You know that we had our own problems; every nation has problems with internal disputes and conflicts and with secessionists. One nation should not meddle in the business or the decisions of another nation. The Palestinians must make up their minds whether they want peace or violence.

[Stein] And if the Palestinians choose Hamas at the end of the struggle, what must Israel do then?

[Peres] That would be a tragedy for the Palestinians. We have been there before. At the time, the mufti of Jerusalem chose Palestinian refugees over a Palestinian state and thus brought disaster upon his people. We will defend ourselves.

[Stein] If Hamas were to win this struggle, do you think there is a possibility that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] might go back into Gaza?

[Peres] I am not prepared to make such prophecies. I hope the PA will have the upper hand. I will not engage in speculations.

[Stein] Does the PA have most of the means it needs, such as weapons, to deal with the Hamas men?

[Peres] They have a very strong police force; they have over 9,000 men as well as the legitimacy to bear weapons. I hope the legitimate weapons will lead to peace and order in the Palestinian camps. Surely, we must weigh our actions very cautiously in order not to give the impression that this is a struggle for Israel's sake or a struggle encouraged by Israel.

[Stein] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

Peres on Gaza Economy, Helms Remarks on Syria Talks

TA2011081394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gay] Mr. Peres, do you share the assessment that the events in Gaza were triggered by the severe economic situation, or is it simply a struggle of forces, the birth pangs of democracy in the Palestinian camp?

[Peres] I think both things are involved. The economic aspect, however, can also be tackled from abroad. Europe, America, and all of us can help in this respect. This aspect of the problem is not being disputed by anybody, because the Gaza Strip's overcrowded conditions keeps getting worse. Anybody dealing with Gaza's future must take into consideration the quickly rising population. Every 15 years the population doubles. The economic issue is a very significant and decisive factor in the situation there.

[Gay] Minister Peres, I want to turn now to the negotiations with Syria. Yesterday Senator Helms said negotiations with Syria are not serious. He said the negotiations are a fraud, as far as Syria is concerned, and that there is no point in proceeding in that direction.

[Peres] This is Helms' opinion; it is not surprising or new, because he has expressed this opinion before. I would like to add one simple thing to what Helms said: I believe Syria has no other alternative. Nobody decides to change direction just because he got up on the wrong side of the bed in the morning. Syria reached the conclusion that the military option has become extremely weak, if indeed it exists at all. The efforts to reach a strategic balance with Israel are proving futile—what is required today is economic balance rather than strategic balance. I believe Syria has no other alternative, just like all the rest of us. We have entered an era in which wars cannot be anything else but exhausting, disappointing, and strange; this is an era of ever more sophisticated weapons. What alternative does Syria have? As for us, we are interested in a Middle East which will heal of all its wounds, in which cooperation is viable and where action can be taken for improving the population's standard of living. I realize that anybody voicing a positive vision sounds like a prophet prophetizing at the wrong time, but these words hold true in all the world, not only in our region.

[Gay] Meanwhile it appears that Syria is not very aware of the urgency of the negotiations, because it is holding up the beginning of talks.

[Peres] Maybe you are right. Syria has missed the train by 15 years; its economy has paid a heavy price for this, and so have the Syrian people. Had Syria made peace at the same time as al-Sadat, it would have received from the government what al-Sadat received. What is the difference between the two? By this delay, however, it has caused damage to itself and to others; more people were killed and money went down the drain. What is the point in all of this?

Beilin: Gaza Events Not To Affect Power Transfer

TA1911184694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the studio on 19 November—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ganor] What is your reaction to the bloody events in Gaza yesterday?

[Beilin] These are very tragic events. Nobody can remain indifferent to the sight of bloodshed. Politically speaking, they speak of the rift in Gaza between the

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Palestinian Authority [PA] and its violent opposition. Of course, our hope is that the PA, with which we have been negotiating, will be able to gain control of the situation and that there will be no doubts about its ability to control the area. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] In view of these events, does Israel plan to continue to transfer powers to the PA and to advance toward the next phase?

[Beilin] There is no question about it. I think it is our duty to transfer those powers. We are interested in it, and we signed an agreement to that effect. I definitely believe that we will resume the negotiations very soon on the elections, the interim arrangement, and the transfer of powers. The faster these issues are implemented the better it will be, both for the Palestinians and for Israel. [passage omitted]

Sarid: PA Conclusions Led to Gaza Clashes

TA1811202894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Interview with Minister Yosi Sarid by David Witzthum and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Witzthum] Minister Sarid, has 'Arafat lost control of Gaza? Are we witnessing the beginning of an uprising or a civil war?

[Sarid] I very much hope not, but I would first like to say that when we see these sights, we definitely regret them very much. We regret any bloodshed or manifestations of violence. I would like to send our condolences to the bereaved families in Gaza and our wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded. Israel has no interest—I would like to make this point clear—in seeing our Palestinian neighbors engage in a confrontation among themselves. We wish them a totally different fate.

[Sukenik] Is this not the moment of truth we actually were expecting and knew would come, as it has now, to settle the confusion of all sides? In fact, Israel did not know what to do; the government was at a loss in the wake of the recent terror attacks. It could not intervene, it could not penalize 'Arafat for not doing his share, and the whole business was coming unhinged.

[Sarid] I am not sure, Mr. Sukenik, that I accept your formulations. You spoke about the moment we yearned for, but we never yearned for such a moment....

[Sukenik, interrupting] I was referring to the confrontation, of course, not to the bloodshed.

[Sarid] Nevertheless, it is a known fact that extreme and fanatic Islamic circles in Gaza—and not only in Gaza—made numerous provocations against the Palestinian Authority [PA]. They challenged its authority, treated it with violence; they perpetrated terror attacks under its rule and domain. Of course, no rule or government can tolerate such a situation. Unfortunately, we see similar occurrences in other Arab countries. When Egypt kills fanatic fundamentalist terrorists, it does not do so to serve some foreign interest but because this serves its own interests.

[Sukenik] So, you are actually saying that there was no choice other than some kind of confrontation leading to the moment of truth and that henceforth, especially in view of the bloody score that has just been opened, 'Arafat must forcefully impose his rule on the rejectionist organizations as well.

[Sarid] I would not like to get involved in their considerations, because what happened in Gaza today stemmed from clear-cut Palestinian motives. They are the ones who must know what is good for them and what the future holds in store for them. I suppose that 'Arafat, who is seeking to adhere to the agreements with us, reached the conclusion that it was either him or them. The conclusion took the form it did, which is definitely regrettable.

[Sukenik] The prime minister said a long time ago: 'Arafat will impose order better than us, brutally, without having to contend with the High Court of Justice or Betzelem.

[Sarid] I do not share such wishes. According to our agreement with the Palestinians, everybody is responsible for what happens in his domain. We are responsible for cracking down on terror as much as we can, and this is also 'Arafat's duty. Were today's events necessary? The PA apparently reached the conclusion that, as far as its own interests were concerned, this had to happen. Probably the PA also regrets the results, because this is not what it had in mind.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much.

Savir on Peace Process, Palestinian Elections

BR1811153394 Paris LIBERATION in French 18 Nov 94 p 17

[Interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Christophe Boltanski; place and date not given: "If 'Arafat Wants To Be Elected, Why Not?"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, thinks that there should be no departure from the Oslo agreements, of which he is one of the main architects.

[Boltanski] Each attack leads to delays in the negotiations on autonomy and each delay strengthens the opponents of the peace process and generates more violence. How can this vicious circle be broken?

[Savir] There is no vicious circle. There are simply groups like Hamas or Islamic Jihad which are determined to kill not only Israelis but the whole peace process and undermine the power of the Palestinian Authority. It is therefore vital that Yasir 'Arafat should

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fight against this violent opposition. For him this battle is crucial. Will he allow an anarchical situation to be established or succeed in building a new political society? In addition, the international community must wake up to the serious nature of the economic situation in Gaza. Perhaps the methods of giving aid should be reconsidered. At the next meeting of donor countries, which will probably be held in Paris at the end of November, it will be necessary to encourage very short-term projects which create jobs and perhaps call on the private sector more. But even money is not enough. The Palestinian Authority must be helped to establish decentralized institutions. Finally, the cooperation between our two economies must not be limited to the hiring of several thousand Palestinian workers in Israel. It must be based on joint enterprises, joint industrial estates....

[Boltanski, interrupting] With the violence which is developing, it is difficult to see how these plans can be realized.

[Savir] That is why we must continue the negotiations on autonomy. Gaza and Jericho are a starting point and not an end, and our peace with Jordan does nothing to change our desire to extend autonomy to the West Bank. But the security question is vital. We cannot underestimate the terrible impact of the terrorist attacks on Israeli public opinion. The people understand that Yasir 'Arafat cannot completely halt this violence, but they expect him to do all he can to halt it.

[Boltanski] Yasir 'Arafat arrested 150 Islamic Jihad militants last week. Is that not enough?

[Savir] It is encouraging. But we prefer not to engage in this debate in public.

[Boltanski] A majority of members of the Rabin government have advocated a withdrawal from the small Jewish colonies on the West Bank if the Israeli Army is withdrawn. What do you think of that?

[Savir] I think that we must stand by the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of Principles. The fate of the settlements, borders, the status of East Jerusalem... All of that will not be discussed until the final negotiations. If one element is changed, the whole system is likely to be changed. The redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank will be carried out in stages, as the Oslo agreements stipulate. We will test the efficiency of the Palestinian police. The end of the occupation must go hand in hand with the end of terrorism. That will be difficult. It will take time. But this is how we will learn to live together.

[Boltanski] How will the Israeli Army withdraw from Hebron if several hundred Jewish settlers continue to live in the downtown area?

[Savir] We will continue to be responsible for their security. It is impossible to start a process from the end. There is too much of a tendency on both sides to complain. Do not forget that the negotiations started 18 months ago. Since then we have left Gaza. At the end of the month, six new spheres of authority will be handed over to the Palestinians on the West Bank. The date for the negotiations on the final status of the territories has already been fixed. We are on the right path.

[Boltanski] By launching police operations, Yasir 'Arafat is increasingly being exposed to criticism. Does this loss of prestige worry you?

[Savir] We will do all we can to strengthen Yasir 'Arafat to the extent that he implements the agreement. Moreover, he knows that very well. Yitzhaq Rabin reaffirmed that to him during their last meeting. I think he has now understood that the treaty with Jordan does not go against Palestinian interests. But ultimately, Yasir 'Arafat must help himself. In the past, his strength lay in his weakness, in his silences and vacillations. Today, he will be judged on his actions. A centralized power in the security sphere must be accompanied by a decentralized power in the economic sphere.

[Boltanski] Yasir 'Arafat wishes to be elected by direct universal suffrage to increase his authority.

[Savir] This point will be examined during the negotiations. As long as the Palestinians respect the terms of the Oslo agreement, they are free to determine their own electoral system. If Yasir 'Arafat is seeking democratic legitimacy, why not?

[Boltanski] Will Hamas or Islamic Jihad be able to participate in the elections?

[Savir] We have no objection to the participation of movements hostile to the peace process. Provided they remain nonviolent. In Israel itself, we have a very strong opposition to the autonomy agreements. But democracy and terrorism do not get on well together. If a particular group rejects the Oslo agreements but adopts a nonviolent position, that is not our business.

Waging Struggle Against Helms, Not Pentagon Urged

TA2111142994 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Nov 94 p 7

[Editorial: "The IDF Versus the Pentagon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] required emergency U.S. combat supplies during the Yom Kippur War, it received them from U.S. Army warehouses in Europe. That experience dealt a heavy blow to the IDF's professional prestige and turned it into either an active or potential contender for the limited resources of the U.S. Army, which then entered a dire period of cutbacks in the wake of the pullout from Vietnam. This was one of the factors which sparked the declaration by General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that militarily, Israel is as much of a burden as an asset to the Americans.

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The relationship between the two armies has improved beyond recognition over the past 20 years, particularly during the decade or more of strategic cooperation (and following unfortunate incidents by Northern Command troops vis-a-vis the Multinational Force Marines in Beirut in the winter of 1982-83). Now Senator Jesse Helms is threatening to initiate another embarrassing confrontation between the IDF and the Pentagon brass and the civilian echelons above it.

Helms is trying to support his theory by professing an affection for Israel and a loathing of foreign aid. He has a simple solution: The aid for Israel—and for other allies throughout the world—should continue, but not from foreign aid, which he is determined to slash, retaining an amount only sufficient to be first aid for the indigent, such as "hungry children." Helms sees Israel as a security asset, but the fiscal burden of financing that asset should be borne by the defense budget. The Foreign Relations Committee which he chairs will implement the Republican approach seeking to eliminate government bodies which have become unnecessarily bloated (the State Department-affiliated aid agency, in Helms' opinion); the Israeli aid issue will be turned over to the Pentagon and the Armed Services Committee, which is in charge of the Pentagon plans and which is to assume responsibility for the aid problem.

The Republicans wish to curb the planned cut of the U.S. defense budget, and will even try to augment it—which they will find difficult as long as they declare their general intent of slashing the administration's expenses—but the various military branches have been engaged in a relentless struggle for the few stray dollars in any case. The Air Force is pitted against the Navy, Army against the Marines, in an all-out war—and the IDF, while a cherished ally (which nevertheless lost—following the War of Lebanon and the intifadah on the one hand and the Iraqi war on the other—some of the professional glory which had been once admired by its allies) cannot gain access to perks reserved for first-degree relatives. When the inheritance is smaller than expected and the heirs are at odds with each other, no cousin should get involved in the feud.

The Israeli Government must, therefore, start by deciding to what degree it really needs both components of U.S. aid—defense and civilian—and then to engage in a determined struggle against Helms' design to dodge a discussion of this aid by moving it on to the military. Israel would be better off by confronting Helms—with the help of the administration and truly friendly senators—rather than engaging in a contest with the Pentagon and its supporters, a contest from which Israel will emerge a loser even—and perhaps mainly—if it wins.

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Israel Delegation Concludes Talks on Treaty Issues

Mandate, Treaty Discussed

JN2011205094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Nov 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israel held talks on monitoring various agreements stipulated in their peace treaty. The meeting of the Israeli-Jordanian Committee focused on its mandate and other issues related to the Treaty.

Head of Jordan's side of the committee, Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, reported progress in the talks, which also discussed two committees on borders and transportation.

[Begin al-Mulqi recording] We had gone into discussing three main issues: One is the mandate for our joint committee. Number two, we went into looking at the various agreements and preparing the general mandate of these committees as well as trying to schedule their meetings, which we will hope will be next week.

As for the two committees that have already met, namely, the Borders as well as the Transportation Committee, we're happy to say that the work is progressing very well. As a matter of fact, the Border Committee will start next week working on the ground. [end recording]

Savir Comments on 'Very Good Talks'

JN1811123594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[Interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry by Murid Hammad in Amman on 17 November; from the "News at Ten" program—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Hammad] In the few minutes that have we might as well start by asking about your visit here to Amman and the talks you held today at the Foreign Ministry and the Royal Scientific Society?

[Savir] Thank you, and let me first say it's a great pleasure to be here at Jordanian Television and in Amman altogether. We had very good talks today in both the economic field and the diplomatic field. Jordan and Israel have decided now that the peace treaty is signed to implement its various aspects. Very important aspect is the economic field. We have a whole detailed plan of the Jordan Rift Valley, of the al-'Aqabah-Elat area. We now have to start working on how to implement projects that are right now on paper, and how to translate them into projects on the ground. So, we have decided to work together through various committees to look for the financing, the studies, the private sector companies, and gradually start implement what will become the valley of peace and the valley of prosperity between our two countries.

[Hammad] And this, I understand, is being taken care in accordance with the peace treaty, as well as in contacts with other countries in Europe, for example, the United States?

[Savir] Absolutely, it is based on the peace treaty, it is based on work that was done in the trilateral committee for over a year now between Jordan, the United States, and Israel. There has been curiosity and great support for our treaty in America, in Europe, in Japan. All these governments will be involved in these projects. Their private companies are interested in these projects, and in this context we discussed also today Jordan hosting the upcoming Amman conference for the business sector, and we would like to be ready with our projects for countries to help in financing, for companies to help in development. We will meet in the end of the month with European representatives, with American representatives, and we will show them our projects, see how we can work together. And I am very hopeful, based on the talks today, that now that documents have been signed, we start working, we start implementing, and create a new reality so peace between our leaders will become a peace for the people of the two countries.

[Hammad] Yes, and what about the upcoming Amman summit? What does Israel expect to gain out of that? What are the main issues that you think are crucial to the development of the Middle East?

[Savir] Well, it will totally depend on what Jordan decides as to how to host the conference, as to how to structure the conference. I think that we have—all of us—an interest to start and develop, not just our relationship, but the whole the region. The region has suffered terribly from war, resources were wasted. And now all these resources have to be reinvested, to think how to develop projects, how to develop trade, how to interest the world in what will happen in the Middle East. And the Amman conference will be designed by the Jordanian Government. From what we heard today, we are very hopeful that this will be a marriage between the private sector and governments in order to get projects going. I believe that what happened between Jordan and Israel can serve for a model for the whole region, for a comprehensive peace in the region, understanding a basic equation that peace gradually means prosperity. For that we have to work, for that we have to be innovative, forget about past tragedies, or learn from past tragedies and mistakes, and create a new region. I've no doubt that the Amman conference will become an important turning point in the economy of Jordan, of Israel and Jordan, and of the whole region.

[Hammad] Some people are weary about the Israel's intentions. They say Israel is going to overtake the entire region economically, being a dominant factor. Is this something that you are aware of?

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[Savir] I am aware that some people say this. I think it is a misunderstanding of Israel, and it's a misunderstanding of economy in the world today. You know there's lot of prejudice, we've been after conflict, so you can understand why people have misplaced judgments. [sentence as heard] But today the world is organized according to regions. Europe is organizing; America, Canada, Mexico is organizing; Asia is. The Middle East must do the same. If we, for instance, cooperate in agriculture, in creating new water. We don't have enough water in our countries. Let us say Israel and Jordan created new water for your population, for our population, for other peoples' populations. You do not control, you contribute, and that is our intention.

[Hammad] How do you intend to deal with the Arab world? Are you going to deal with it as a lump sum, or as individual countries according to each relationship?

[Savir] I think each relationship on its own. And if you look at the entirety, it is not anymore Israel and the Arab world. I believe to a large degree the Middle East has to ask itself: There are Europeans, there are Asians, there are Americans. Are we also Middle Easterners? Can we compete in an evolving world for economic development, for scientific development, for education. We must be compatriots of the Middle East, and we will develop our relationship to the degree that countries want our relationship, and I think that we can learn a lot from our model, and can benefit a lot from peace, and I believe that countries and people in the region will follow this example.

[Hammad] In the few minutes that we have left, I would like to talk about the political aspect of your visit here to Jordan. One of the issues that are being raised today by the media and by the talks that you've held at the Foreign Ministry is the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Israel, and this is something that is supposed to take place one month after the exchange of ratification instruments. When do you see Jordan and Israel establishing diplomatic ties according to the talks that you've held today?

[Savir] Well, we were today at the Foreign Ministry for the first time, meeting our counterparts here, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and the secretary general and his colleagues, and we have decided that there will be a formal declaration in the two capitals towards the end of the month. Jordan is awaiting a cabinet decision, we were told, on the establishment of diplomatic relations. And after that, technical groups will go, we have to find a building for our embassy, your people will do the same in Israel. And then the diplomatic relations, according to the peace treaty go into effect with the opening of the embassies, hopefully around December 10th, which is one month after the exchange of letters of ratification between his royal highness and Prime Minister Rabin. These embassies will be very busy embassies because we have a very intense common agenda to develop this region and the relationship between our two countries. And based on our talks today, we're both grateful and hopeful.

[Hammad] Many names have been suggested as Israeli ambassadors in Jordan. Do you have any idea who will represent your state in Jordan?

[Savir] You know that this program is also viewed in Israel, so don't get me into troubled waters. It will be decided by the Israeli cabinet in the very near future, and many names have been mentioned because there're many candidates for a very important and sought after position.

[Hammad] Yes, one final question that I would like to talk is the continued, or the continuing part of the Middle East peace process, and namely the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the talks. Where are you now with the Syrians? And what do you expect will happen in the very near future?

[Savir] There's been some progress during the visit of President Clinton. Secretary of State Christopher hopefully will come in the course of December to the region, and will continue, I hope, to narrow the gap between us and Syria, and also to develop our talks with the Lebanese. Ultimately, Syria and Israel will have to enter in the kind of detailed elaborate talks as we had with our Jordanian neighbors. Only face to face negotiations can you create the type of package that creates new security, new economic relations, normalization, diplomatic relations, solve the territorial issue between us, the border issue, and put a package together because we are interested in peace with Syria, but those who will live together tomorrow must talk together today.

[Hammad] On the rate or a scale of 10, how to you give the Syrian-Israeli talks now?

[Savir] I am a great optimist, but I think it's not good to evaluate the chances. What has to be done is to make a 10 effort, and this we're ready to do.

[Hammad] Thank you very much for being here with us at Jordan Television Mr. Savir.

Delegation Leaves

JN1911114094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by P. V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—An Israeli delegation left Amman on Friday [18 November] after talks with Jordanian officials that produced an agreement that the two countries would announce the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 27 and open embassies in each other's capitals on Dec. 10.

As the talks were being held, an Israeli team scouted through several areas of Amman, including the 'Abdun area, ostensibly looking for a site to locate an Israeli embassy.

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Nisim Ben Shitrit, an administrative director of the Israeli foreign ministry, led the team, which included Israeli journalists. The local media were excluded from the tour.

The formal meetings, held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Thursday morning and at the Foreign Ministry in the afternoon, were the first official discussions between the two countries on the broader issues of formal relations and trade and economic cooperation in implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Talal al-Hassan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the Israeli delegation for a brief round of talks before a meeting attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nayif al-Hadid, Major-General 'Abd-Ilah al-Kurdi, a member of the Jordanian negotiating team, Foreign Ministry Ambassador Nabih Shuqum and senior ministry officials 'Umar al-Rifa'i and Ziyad al-Majali and Foreign Ministry advisor on peace talks Muhammad Shahinkri.

The Israeli delegation was led by Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, and included senior advisors and officials from the foreign and finance ministries.

The Jordanian delegation to the technical meetings on trade and economic cooperation held at the RSS was led by Hani al-Mulqi, president of the RSS, and included officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Central bank of Jordan as well as economic advisors at the Prime Ministry.

Also attending the meeting was Umayyah Tuqan, director of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), in an indication that the talks also dealt with the possibility of Israeli investors entering the Jordanian stock market.

Dr. al-Mulqi and Mr. Savir told reporters after the morning meeting that the two sides discussed the various aspects of economic cooperation as called for in the peace treaty, which sets a May 1995 deadline for reaching agreements. These include a free trade zone, investment, banking, industrial cooperation and labour. Most of the projects were discussed at the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic summit held in Casablanca, Morocco.

It was clear from the comments by the two officials that priority was being given to implementing projects that are vital to the very essence of the peace treaty, including provisions to make an additional 215 million cubic metres of water [available] to Jordan from sources in the north.

This would involve building dams and a water purification/desalination plant at a total cost of around $150 million.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said late last month that the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU) had agreed to finance the projects, but he did not specify a figure. It is expected that financing will also come from the United states for the projects.

Immediate steps will also include linking the power grids of the two countries and opening an extra channel for a microwave telecommunication link.

Technical experts from the two sides have launched discussions on Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian lands and demarcation of the borders, a process expected to be completed in nine months.

Mr. Savir told reporters on Thursday: "We are now launching the practical aspects of economic and political relations with Jordan after the signing of the peace treaty."

The meetings at the RSS covered "all sectors: "tourism, energy, agriculture" with particular focus on development projects in the al-'Aqabah-Elat area and the Jordan Rift Valley.

Dr. al-Mulqi said it was decided to prepare a feasibility study on the proposed dams near the borders in a month's time. It is expected to be presented to the European Union and the United states with a request for financing for the project.

Mr. al-Hadid, the Foreign Ministry secretary-general, issued a statement after the evening's talks saying that the two countries would announce the establishment of diplomatic relations in a joint statement on Nov. 27.

Other officials said the two countries will open embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman on Dec. 10, exactly one month after His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the peace treaty.

Mr. Savir said the morning site-scouting could not produce a suitable location for the Israeli embassy and that another team would be coming to Amman soon to continue searching.

Nov. 29 has been set tentatively for the team to come to Amman. A Jordanian team will visit Tel Aviv one day later, Reuters reported.

The Associated Press quoted Jordanian sources as saying the Israelis wanted to acquire a plot of land near the Queen Alia International Airport on which they planned to build an embassy.

Al-'Anani Comments on Peace Treaty, Syria Stand

JN1811145794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Nov 94 pp 1, 20

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occupied Palestine—QUDS PRESS—Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has warned against fragmenting Arab relations, noting that some parties in the Israeli Government are working toward this end. In a statement to the Israeli Arabic

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weekly AL-SINNARAH, Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan's relations with Israel will not be like Egypt's relations with Israel following the signing of the Camp David accords.

Al-'Anani said in the statements, which will be published today, that nobody has the right to blame Jordan for reaching a solution with Israel before solving the Palestinian issue. He said nobody can ask Jordan to do what is beyond its capability, noting that nobody can deny Jordan's right to restore and exercise its sovereign rights over its territory and water.

Dr. al-'Anani said: Jordan was not aware of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles or the secret talks held in Oslo between the two sides before they were publicly announced. He noted, however, that after the agreement was revealed Jordan endeavored to arrange its relations with the Palestinian side on this basis. He added that after reaching an agreement with Israel the Jordanian stand would be more liberal than before in championing the Palestinian stand. [passage omitted]

The information minister said Jordan is the key to a permanent solution in the region. Therefore, he added, any future political arrangements should result from a situation in which the Palestinians will have reached the stage of full self-determination that is recognized by Israel and the world. Then, he said, we can make clear arrangements between two neighbors who understand each other and who want to benefit from their equal-footed relations.

Al-'Anani described Israel's recognition of Jordan's role in running the affairs of the Islamic holy places in the eastern part of Jerusalem as a success achieved by Jordan which the Palestinian Authority could not achieve in its talks with Israel. He said: As a Palestinian, I should support this Jordanian role because it would be easier for me to take it from Jordan rather than Israel. He affirmed that the holy places are a trust [with Jordan] until the Palestinians become capable of exercising their right and restoring them so they will immediately take control of them. [passage omitted]

The information minister warned Israel against trying to divide Arab relations. He said the current Israeli psychology or policy may argue that it is in Israel's interest to deal with Arab parties individually. He said that when Peres speaks about the new Middle East, he is speaking about a Peres-envisaged scenario in which countries are open to each other economically, permitting Israel to deal with them as a one bloc economically and as individuals politically.

He emphasized that if, one day, Arabs feel the Israeli role is divisive and that Israel could impose on Arab countries the choice of dealing with it or with other Arab countries, I think the answer will be clear. He said this should not take place in this manner at all. He added that Israel will benefit more from a situation in which Arab relations are good and easy rather than being divided.

Dr. al-'Anani said Syria has officially criticized the Jordanian-Israeli treaty for one very simple reason, that is, allowing the Israelis to be vested with land whose area is less than 2 square km within defined conditions and under Jordanian sovereignty. He said the Syrians fear this may set a precedent that Israel may raise during negotiations on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

He said Jordan did not lease land, and the word leasing was never mentioned, and there are no arrangements for leasing. He stressed that there are no conditions on Jordan's movement in these lands.

He said that if Syria is able to get the same conditions in the Golan Heights—full withdrawal and free movement—then we will salute the Syrians and congratulate them.

Al-'Anani emphasized: Jordanian-Syrian relations are distinguished, and we will not allow a casual difference or a difference in opinion on a certain subject to mar relations.

Meanwhile, the minister hoped that peace will prove itself to skeptics and show them that they have been mistaken and that they misunderstood it.

He said Jordan will not be an arena for conflicting foreign political ideas. He said: When we speak about religion-related terrorism, Jordan is never the place for such terrorism.

Israel Asked To Reduce Size of Embassy Staff

TA2011124694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan, which is apparently frightened by Israel's grandiose plans, submitted a request to Jerusalem over the weekend asking Israel to settle for a small staff at its embassy in Amman.

According to Israeli media reports which reached Amman, Israel plans to establish a large embassy in Amman, with at least 10 diplomats, as well as security personnel. The embassy is scheduled to open on 10 December. An Israeli delegation headed by Nisim Ben-Shetrit, a deputy director general at the Foreign Ministry, visited Amman at the end of last week. With information received from local real estate agents and friendly embassies, the delegation sought to locate a building in which to house the embassy in one of Amman's more luxurious suburbs.

At the end of the week, Jordan asked Israel to settle for a smaller embassy staff and focus its efforts to find a building in one specific neighborhood in Amman.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed the assessment that the Jordanian Government was seeking to lower the public profile of its peace celebrations with Israel because of its

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problems with domestic opposition factions, as well as its fear of annoying Syria and other Arab states.

'Complicated' Israeli Measures for Visas Viewed

JN2011114294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 94, p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israeli tourists are flocking to Jordan in hundreds every day under visas and permissions granted by the Interior Ministry in Amman, but the Israeli government has yet to issue the first visa for Jordanian tour groups, travel agents and potential tourists said Saturday [19 November].

While the Jordanian authorities issue permits for Israeli tourists to enter the Kingdom through the southern and northern crossings in about six days after they receive the applications, Israel appears to be adopting a complicated procedure involving thorough security screening, they said.

The Israeli permission could take between 10 and 15 days, said an official of Apollo Tours in Amman.

Although the Jordanian procedures also involved security screening, the process is expedited in Jordan while the Israelis appear to be taking their own time, according to travel agents.

Israeli tourists started coming in on Nov. 12, two days after His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

However, until Saturday, no Jordanian tour group is known have crossed into Israel, travel agents said.

Individual cases of businessmen wishing to visit Israel are treated differently since their applications to the Israeli authorities are also followed up by their contacts in israel and the occupied territories.

Dozens of Jordanian businessmen have already visited the Jewish state, and most of them have also secured semi-permanent residence status there.

But the first group of Jordanian tourists is still awaiting permission to enter Israel.

Pending the opening of Israeli and Jordanian diplomatic missions in Amman and Tel Aviv respectively in the second week of December—a formal announcement of establishing diplomatic relations is expected on Nov. 27—travel agents are handling visa applications from tourists from both sides.

The applications are forwarded to the concerned authorities on the two sides, and permissions are usually sent to the border crossing and available to travellers upon entry.

"Security measures and restrictions imposed by Israel are delaying the issuance of visas to Jordanians, quite contrary to what is happening to Israelis wishing to come to Jordan," Dawud Qutub of Diana Tours said.

"We call upon Israeli authorities to speed up the issuance of visas to our tourists and we hope our call will meet with a positive response," Mr. Qutub was quoted as saying by the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Global Tours and Travel company, which says it plans to organise weekly tour packages to Israel, hopes to send the first group of 40 Jordanian tourists to Israel on Dec. 12, an official of the company said.

Global tours is among several Jordanian travel agencies which have prepared tour packages to Israel and are advertising in the local press. However, it is unlikely that the number of Jordanians visiting Israel will be anywhere near the flow in the opposite directions.

A survey conducted by the Institute of Spatial Analysis has found that some 600,000 Israelis are interested in visiting Jordan this year and also half probably will, the JERUSALEM POST reported.

The survey conducted by the institute's Geographical Research Centre, was conducted among a selected sample of 527 adult Israeli Jews, the Post said.

According to its finding, about 237,000 Israelis will probably visit Jordan during the coming year, about the same number that visited Turkey last year.

The survey also found that almost half of the 5.5 million Israeli population has no interest in visiting Jordan. Of these, 23 per cent said they were afraid of felt insecure while 17 per cent said they were uninterested in visiting Jordan in particular or any Arab state.

"Groups showing particular interest in going to Jordan include those with higher education, the secular and those with above-average incomes," the Post said. "Fear or insecurity about travelling to Jordan was particularly evident in the group with 10 or less years of schooling and those with less than average income."

First Shipment of Tomatoes to Israel Fails Test

JN2011103794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 94, p 3

["From THE JERUSALEM POST"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The First shipment of Jordanian tomatoes was not allowed into Israel Thursday [17 November] after failing to pass the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture's quality check.

The ministry said a new shipment of tomatoes from Jordan is expected to arrive on Sunday.

The ministry said the shipment, containing 20 tonnes of small and large tomatoes, arrived at the Shaykh Husayn Bridge Thursday morning. The tomatoes had external

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damage and many were covered in mold, large quantities of pesticide remains and soil, the ministry said. [sentence as published]

The price of tomatoes has reached a new record high despite reports that the public is buying fewer of them, the ministry reported, it said the wholesale price of a kilo of tomatoes reached NIS [new Israeli shekel] 10 ($2.50).

New Tomato Shipment Inaugurates Trade

JN2011182394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first shipment of tomatoes from Jordan crossed into Israel through the northern Shaykh Husayn Bridge after agreement between Jordanian merchants and Israeli importers. The shipment is part of the 350 tonnes agreed by the two sides. It is the first trade deal after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on October the 26th.

Reaction to 'Regrettable Incidents' in Gaza Reported

Government Expresses 'Deep Sorrow'

JN1911132094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Government has expressed its profound regret over the incidents that took place in Gaza yesterday, and urged the brothers to close ranks, and not to allow sedition to occur.

This came in a statement made by an official Jordanian spokesman. Following is the text of the statement:

The Jordanian Government has followed with great concern the bloody and regrettable incidents that took place in Gaza yesterday, and expresses its deep sorrow and sadness for the blood that was shed and for those who were killed, especially in these delicate and complicated circumstances through which the Palestinian land is passing, and which badly require solidarity among brothers and unity of ranks and capabilities and to devote them for construction and realizing the aspired objectives.

While extending condolences to the Palestinian people in general and the families of those killed and injured in particular, the Government beseeches God Almighty to grant the injured speedy recovery, have mercy on the souls of those killed, and give patience to their families.

We urge the brothers to close ranks and not to allow sedition to occur, and we hope that peace, amity, and fraternal spirit will prevail among all in order to preserve the gains of the Palestinian people and to realize more of these gains.

Arab blood is too dear to be shed, and Arab efforts too valuable to be wasted. We in Jordan sympathize with the brothers and share them their sadness, praying to God to guide all to the sound path.

Parties, Organizations Denounce Events

JN2011123894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 94 p 27

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Provisional Preparatory Committee for Defending the PLO Charter and the Palestinian People's National Rights has held the self-rule authority fully responsible for the events of Bloody Friday. It also called for bringing those responsible for these events and those who committed them to popular justice.

The committee urged the masses of our people in the valiant Gaza Strip in particular, and everywhere in general, to preserve their national unity and not get involve in the furnace of inter-Palestinian fighting, which the Israeli occupation authorities are planning.

In a political statement issued yesterday, the committee called for an end to the bloodshed and firing on citizens. It also urged continued efforts to prevent such methods which, in one way or another, respond to Israel's demands. It also urged all honorable figures and symbols in the [Palestinian] authority to take a clear and frank stand on these events, saying that to keep silent over them only means approval of this policy.

For its part, the Palestinian People's Party called for an immediate end to Palestinian bloodletting and urged self-restraint. It also called for avoiding provocations to deny those who are lying in wait and the agents any opportunity. The party further called for a national inquiry to determine those responsible and bring them to justice.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Palestinian People's Party urged the Palestinian Authority to hold a comprehensive and urgent national dialogue with all nationalistic forces and figures to approve a national honor document to prohibit infighting and help bring about political and social discipline.

The Palestinian People's Party also called for an immediate end to mutual provocative campaigns until the Palestinian public can have their say and express their opinions, and until every nationalistic, social, and popular figure and every honorable and patriotic citizen can play his historic role and responsibility to calm the situation and stop the bloodshed.

In another development, eight Jordanian parties denounced the Gaza events and held the self-rule authority fully responsible for them. In a written press release, these parties urged the Palestinian people to avoid infighting and to close their ranks against the occupation authorities and those who serve them. They also called for setting up an inquiry which will bring those responsible to justice.

These parties are: The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, The Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party—

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Hashd, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party.

The Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc yesterday issued a statement on the events of the Bloody Friday in Gaza. The statement denounces the events and calls on "all honorable Palestinians to exercise the maximum degree of self-restraint and responsibility, to discard provocations, and to foil the attempts of the agents and vindictive people to start a sedition and divert attention from the real role and the unified objective; that is to resist the Israeli occupation."

Paper Blames Israel for Gaza Incidents

JN1911102394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Nov 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Israeli Responsibility for Palestinian Infighting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most important fact in the regrettable bloody incidents in Gaza yesterday is that the Arab bloodshed in fighting between people with the same cause has taken place under the umbrella of occupation and following Israeli pressures.

The Israeli pressures on the Palestinian Authority, which wants to end the Israeli occupation through peaceful means, aimed to incite the Palestinian Authority against the Palestinian resistance, which wants to use all means to get rid of the occupation. Observers can simply conclude that one of the occupation's main objectives was realized yesterday.

The regrettable bloody incidents coincided with the Egyptian president's appeal to donor states to quickly fulfill their commitments to the Palestinian Authority, and his warning that an explosion in the Gaza Strip threatens not only the peace process, but also Europe.

The bloody incidents in Gaza also coincided with the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee supporting the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The resolution was opposed only by Israel and the United States.

The Israeli-U.S. opposition to the Palestinian right to self-determination, the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the illegitimate settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories, and the failure to expedite the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from these territories are the real reasons for the continuation of violence and bloodshed.

Tel Aviv is mistaken when it looks for reasons other than itself for the resistance to its occupation. It is more mistaken when it tries to falsely portray this resistance to the world. It is also mistaken to the point of sinning when it tries to instigate the world and the Palestinian Authority to suppress the resistance to its occupation under pretexts that mix cards in a way that justifies Israeli procrastination in realizing peace on the basis of land for peace as called for by the international legitimacy.

Also mistaken are our brothers in Palestine who believe that fighting among brothers and shedding Arab blood by Arab hands will end the occupation, because this path is a dead end for realizing such an objective.

We believe that resorting to weapons in facing the other views, which is the same language of the occupier, is a violation of one of the national principles and a deviation from the national constants, especially before the end of occupation. We also believe that the language of dialogue is characteristic of this age and is the language that should prevail. As for the language of weapons, it is rejected whether it is used by the authority—any authority-or the resistance—any resistance.

Editorial on Situation in Gaza Strip, PA

JN2011111194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 94, p 6

[Editorial: "Chance Must Not Slip"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bloody clash that took place between the Palestinian police and Hamas [The Islamic Resistence Movement] activists in Gaza on Friday and claimed the lives of scores of Palestinians and injured hundreds of others should be an eye-opener as to what could be expected to happen in not only the Gaza Strip but also the West Bank in the months ahead. Besides being the first armed clash of its kind between Palestinians in which the police force belonging to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) fired at defiant demonstrators armed with machine guns, it is also the first open challenge to the PLO leadership by some Gazans. The main concern is whether the killing and looting in the Gaza Strip is a prelude to a civil war that could derail the peace talks between Israel and the PLO altogether.

We believe the root problem for the deterioration in Palestinian ranks stems first and foremost from Israel's undue feetdragging on its peace negotiations with the Palestinian side. The second immediate factor contributing to the new alarming situation is the unfulfilled promises from the international community to provide funds for both building national Palestinian institutions and meeting the needs of poor people still living in despair and deprivation.

Minister of International Cooperation in the PNA Nabil Sha'th was right on the mark just before the clash Friday when he said the authority simply cannot disarm Islamic groups "due to Israel's failure to respect the Palestinian-Israeli agreement." This Israeli procrastination, Sha'th went on to say, has meant that the PNA lacks "any public support to disarm the opposition groups or take tough measures against them."

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This is in essence the quandary in which PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat finds himself in the face of mounting pressures from within and outside the Palestinian territories. Still all these negative factors, be they Israeli made or internationally connected, cannot absolve the Palestinians themselves from the responsibility towards the recent setbacks. As long as the Palestinians are deeply divided, there is really not much that any country or group of countries can do to save them from siege and infighting. The Palestinians now have the chance of a lifetime to create their own independent national institutions on the way, hopefully, to statehood. They must not waste that chance by playing into the hands of their enemies. Otherwise the train would pass them as it did on so many occasions before.

Columnist Warns of Civil War in Gaza

JN2011125694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 94 pp 28

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Gaza First"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are all saddened by what happened in Gaza and sorry for the victims that have fallen there. We all hope that the Palestinians will pass through this dilemma by resorting to logic, dialogue, and self-restraint because what has happened is very serious indeed and should it be repeated, God forbid, Gaza will probably turn into another Kabul.

Finding a Palestinian solution to the new dilemma is not an easy thing to do. The main responsibility for such a solution must be carried by the National Authority in Gaza because any confrontation in the strip will mean a civil war. This, in turn, means that the objective of Israel, which clearly seeks to push the National Authority into a battle with Hamas [The Islamic Resistance] and the [Islamic] Jihad Movement, is achieved. That objective is also pursued by several foreign forces and parties which are pushing Hamas and the Jihad Movement to declare war against the authority. These parties hastened to disseminate statements calling for adding fuel to the fire as if a Palestinian civil war had become an objective of liberation and struggle.

He who thinks that Israel does not have an interest in starting a civil war in the strip is mistaken. Setting fire to the Palestinian house from within, especially over part of the Palestinian territory, will lead to destruction, thousands of victims, and another wave of immigration which will all give Israel demographic and security advantages and put an end to the image of the Palestinians as a people worthy of freedom, self-determination, and a state.

Israel, in particular, is behind these regrettable developments. It is fully responsible for the very bad economic conditions. During 27 years of occupation, Tel Aviv successfully turned the strip into one of the poorest spots in the world and set the psychological, social, and political scene to turn it into a permanent hotbed of tension.

When the time for peace arrived, the Rabin government offered only a self-rule in geographically divided areas, an arrangement which reminds the Palestinians, day in day out, that the kind of peace that was offered is meaningless and runs counter to logic and the dignity of any people. Only days ago, Rabin visited Gaza to say in a challenging way that a small settlement, inhabited by tens of Jews and guarded by 500 soldiers, will remain there.

If peace does not pass through Gaza first, then the entire peace process will be deeply questioned. Without having peace there, peace cannot pass on to the other occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, and then the central conflict will remain with its Arab and Islamic dimensions.

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Hizballah Condemns 'Arafat for Gaza 'Massacre'

NC1911082694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has issued a statement saying that it believes that the massacre [in Gaza on 18 November] is a new act of treason that can be added to Yasir 'Arafat's black record after a long series of disgraceful, shameful, and humiliating acts that this traitor has caused. He is not satisfied with the crimes that his two criminal hands have committed on the political level in signing disgraceful documents with the Zionist enemy but has insisted on direct participation with this enemy in stabbing the mothers, children, and elderly of our struggling Palestinian people.

The statement added: While we in Hizballah and among the solid and struggling ranks of the resistance in Lebanon condemn this heinous crime, which killed more than 13 martyrs and injured over 200 of our valiant brothers in the Gaza Strip, we would like to have the following facts on record:

The orders that were issued to confront the faithful popular march that was proceeding from God's home were Zionist orders. The weapons used and bullets fired against the demonstrators were Zionist bullets and weapons. We believe that the martyrs who fell are martyrs of the Zionist enemy and that Yasir 'Arafat has carried out the basest task he has been entrusted with by the Israeli Mosad.

The Hizballah statement added: As we offer our sincerest condolences to the families of the martyrs and all the fighters who are fighting against the usurping Jews and their aides, and to our dear brothers in the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, as well as in all the struggling Palestinian factions, we can only salute you with great reverence and respect for your extraordinary steadfastness. We also salute your colossal efforts, tolerance of pain, and perseverance against injustice from the enemies. In addition, we wish the injured among you speedy recovery.

Amal Movement Blames Israel for Arzun Blast

NC1811125794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning an explosive charge went off in Arzun in the Tyre district on the coastal road leading to the home of Fadl al-Musawi, Amal Movement member. A Lebanese Army and police force proceeded immediately to the scene of the explosion, which caused only material damage. Qasim Safa, correspondent from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in the south, reports:

[Begin Safa recording] At 0600 today an explosive device went off in the township of Arzun on the road leading to the home of Fadl al-Musawi, member of the Amal Movement. The chief of the Juwayya Gendarmerie post, a Lebanese Army unit, and a UN Interim Force in Lebanon Finnish unit arrived at the scene immediately after the explosion to investigate. The device was estimated to be approximately 1 kg of TNT. The explosion only caused damage to the electrical network in the area.

The Amal Movement office in the south released the following statement: Once again the hand of treachery and agentry tries to sow horror in the hearts of our brethren. Once again the Zionist enemy tries to shuffle the cards in the steadfast south because he constantly seeks to sow feud and sedition to facilitate peddling his plans to divide the Lebanese and undermine the resistance to the occupation.

The statement stressed the need to pool all resources to fight the Zionist enemy, particularly because we are experiencing circumstances that require us to confront the enemy and his agents, safeguard the interests of our kinsfolk, rally around the state in its efforts to rebuild the country, and consolidate the march of national accord and social peace. [end recording]

Hizballah, IDF Clash in South

TA2011123694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Artillery fire was aimed at terrorist targets in southern Lebanon this morning after an assault on an Israeli army unit in which a soldier suffered wounds described as moderate. In the incident in the area of the Beaufort Crusader fortress, Hizballah, according to their own account, used rockets and light weapons to attack the Israeli forces.

In response, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] hit back with artillery fire at the Hizballah. The wounded soldier was flown for treatment by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

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Al-Zu'bi: Country Responded To Peace Requirements

JN1911085394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has said that unlike Israel, Syria has responded to the requirements of peace. He said Israel continues to evade announcing its response to and acceptance of the land-for-peace principle. In a statement to AL-AHRAM daily to be published today, Saturday, al- Zu'bi said Syria's stand on peace is clear: peace is a strategic option.

Praising the Syrian-Egyptian relations, al-Zu'bi said that continued coordination between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and President Mubarak and their exchanged visits give a positive indication as to how inter-Arab relations should be. Stressing Syria's faith in joint Arab action, al-Zu'bi expressed optimism that the Arab situation will improve. He said that although the Arab nation is experiencing hard times, this must not push us to despair.

Al-Zu'bi said that negotiations are going on between Cairo and Damascus through the joint ministerial committees to export the Syrian grain surplus to Egypt.

Al-Shar' Accuses Israel of Delaying Peace Process

NC2011190394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has accused Israel of delaying the signing of a peace agreement with his country, of waiting to digest the Jordanian track after having digested the Palestinian track. He explained that a comprehensive solution means that peace must not be confined to the withdrawal from the Golan Heights; a comprehensive peace must also entail withdrawal from south Lebanon.

When [MBC] correspondent Nidal Qabalan asked the Syrian minister what would be conducive to advancing peace on the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' said:

[Begin al-Shar' recording] I can say that Israel is responsible for the delay [in signing a peace treaty]. In the past, Israel used the pretext of needing time to digest the Palestinian track after the signing of the Oslo agreement. Now we do not know if Israel has the same ideas about needing time to digest the Jordanian track. At any rate, Syria is committed to achieving a comprehensive peace. Naturally, a comprehensive peace must not be confined to complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but must also include a complete withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Qabalan] You in Syria had predicted inter-Palestinian fighting in the wake of the Oslo agreement. Your prediction proved to be true. How do you view these bloody clashes and what is required for the Palestinians to emerge from this impasse?

[Al-Shar'] Of course, we in Syria are not happy about this internecine Palestinian fighting, though we feared that it would occur. It is not a prediction, but rather a precise reading of the Oslo agreement and the major loopholes in it. [end recording]

U.S. Vote Said Giving Rabin Blackmail Opportunity

JN1911154194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1239 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Amid Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States, and before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour, Israel has tried to suggest that the U.S. Administration holds Syria partially responsible for postponing Christopher's visit to the region.

This is another Israeli attempt to harm Syria and hold it responsible for obstructing the peace process. However, its timing implies many things about the real dimensions of the Israeli position on the peace process, as well as the background of clouding the positive atmosphere created by the Damascus summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton.

Yitzhaq Rabin went to Washington under circumstances that will turn the results of the elections of the House of Representatives, Senate, and governors into an opportunity to blackmail more U.S. funds for Israel. By so doing, Israel is sending a message suggesting its position. This position is not ready to reconsider the calculations of the peace process according to the positive results of the Damascus summit.

These results confront President Clinton's administration with its real task as a major cosponsor of the peace process—a cosponsor who is convinced of the elementary facts, conditions, and requirements of peace. All these things stem from two facts: First, the need for peace to be just and comprehensive; second, the Security Council resolutions should be the basis for achieving such a peace.

Apart from many considerations related to the Israeli annoyance at the fact that the U.S. position has moved closer to that of Damascus—only because the latter's position is based on justice and the resolutions of international legitimacy—the statements frequently made by the Israeli officials regarding the date of promoting the Syrian and Lebanese tracks reveal not only the fact that Israel wants peace according to its own way and to the requirements of the internal situation of the Rabin government, but also the fact that Israel does not want the U.S. role to be effective in the peace process.

A quick look backward will reveal how Israel resorted to negotiations with the PLO in the Oslo corridors away from Washington's eyes and role. These negotiations led to a separate and unequal agreement whose dangers are

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evident now. It is impossible for this agreement to lead to a just, comprehensive, and real peace as long as the implementation of its stipulations—which disavow the Palestinian people's rights—is linked to the will of Israel.

As for the Wadi al-'Arabah [Jordanian-Israeli] agreement, it is enough to recall that Washington was a guest of honor under the media spotlight. We discovered that this Israeli method is designed to avert any commitments and guarantees to establish a just and comprehensive peace. This is the game Israel is now playing, following its attempts to undermine the bases of the Madrid conference and torpedo the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace.

Whenever the U.S. voice is raised and whenever the U.S. role becomes effective in the peace process, based on implementing the international legitimacy which will lead to justice, the nature of the Israeli position that rejects the conditions of justice and peace can explain the new Israeli slanders and place them in their right place. This will ultimately reaffirm one fact, namely, that the U.S. Administration is now fully aware of the positions of all parties. This administration realizes that the Israeli position obstructs the efforts designed to promote the peace process and impedes any real breakthrough in this process.

It remains to be said that the responsibility of the U.S. Administration lies in working to save the resolutions of international legitimacy. A just and comprehensive peace will be in the interest of everyone. It will not be in Washington's interest to yield to the mood of Israel, which is violating international law and hampering regional security and stability.

All circumstances now require a serious and firm U.S. position stemming from declared commitments. This position should take frank and daring steps that conform to the declared U.S. conviction about the need to speed up the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region before Israel manages to abort this peace opportunity.

Inter-Palestinian Clash in Gaza, Reactions Reported

Damascus Radio Reports Incident

JN1811144294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The limited self-rule police in Gaza opened fire on a huge crowd of Palestinians leaving a city mosque after Friday prayers today, killing two and injuring at least 60 others. News agencies quote eyewitnesses as saying that the self-rule police, armed with machine guns and carrying shields, encircled the mosque and fired at the Palestinians, who pelted them with stones and bottles and set ablaze two police cars and a military truck.

News agencies said the shooting lasted more than 40 minutes and that among the injured were a photographer working for the Associated Press and another for Reuter Television. They said Palestinians hurled stones at the limited self-rule policemen after the police tried to remove loudspeakers at the mosque, which is located in the center of Gaza.

News agencies said Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official, who gave the Friday sermon at the mosque, appealed to the policemen to stop shooting. He said: Stop firing at your citizens, or you will pay a heavy price. Police were seen shooting at the loudspeakers.

L'Orient Radio's correspondent in the occupied territories said a state of high tension foreshadowing clashes spread throughout Gaza after shooting broke out at a demonstration staged at Filastin mosque in central Gaza against the self-rule agreement. He added that the clash started when the worshipers hurled empty bottles at the self-rule police, who replied by firing at worshipers, killing two and injuring scores, some seriously.

The correspondent said demonstrators carried placards calling for the liquidation of agents who were responsible for the liquidation of university professor Hani al-'Abid in Khan Yunus. He added that no injuries were reported among the limited self-rule police.

'Atmosphere of Regret' Noted

JN1911205494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Report by Thana' al-Imam from Damascus; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A general atmosphere of regret prevails in the Syrian street as a result of the bloody incidents in Gaza yesterday.

Informed Syrian sources told Radio Monte Carlo that what happened was the result of the incomplete Gaza-Jericho agreement, something Syria has warned against from the very beginning, and expected when it said that such an agreement will not achieve peace, but will lead to an inter-Palestinian fighting.

The sources said that the dangers of the agreement with Israel away from the Arab ranks are not over yet, in a reference to another possible Palestinian-Arab conflict, particularly a Palestinian-Jordanian conflict, because Israel has given Jordan the right to supervise the holy places.

Events Said Outcome of Israeli Planning

JN1911084394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Press review]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Self-Repression Authority," AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has continued to delay the implementation of the Oslo agreement—despite all its defects and shortcomings. Meanwhile, the limited self-rule authority, giving in to the Israeli will, stepped up acts of repression against the Palestinian Arab people, who reject partial solutions. Partial solutions have achieved Israel's objectives of obliterating the Palestinian Arab people's rights and undermining the self-rule, which has turned into an authority for self-repression. This is an objective which Israel has been seeking since it discovered that it was impossible to quell the intifadah.

AL-THAWRAH says that placing the limited self-rule authority on a collision course with the people of Palestine will eventually enable Israel to justify to the entire world its refusal to withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories. The pretext will be ready: the Palestinian people have been given a chance, but they could not manage to rule themselves. Then, the occupation will become legitimate before the world.

AL-THAWRAH says that this is an Israeli-led game in which the limited self-rule authority is taking part after it agreed to provide a cover for this Israeli evasion of the core of peace through the separate Oslo and other deals. The people who do not accept that their land be stolen and their rights usurped cannot accept settlements that perpetuate the occupation and turn the right to self-determination into a right to run local affairs under the Israeli political, military, and economic control.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: Only a reconsideration of the Oslo agreement and compliance with the bases of a just, comprehensive peace on the basis of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 will put a final end to the problems and repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel and those standing by it will be deluded to believe that separate agreements can make peace.

In an editorial headlined "The Gaza Massacre," TISHRIN that the self-rule authority's crime in Gaza yesterday, in which approximately 200 Palestinian civilians were either killed or wounded, was not a coincidence. Rather, it was the outcome of long- term Israeli planning. The basic Israeli objective behind the consistent provocation of the 'Arafat police was to incite intra-Palestinian fighting and to develop it into a civil war undermining their cause and turning the self-rule authority into a true support for Israel in its acts of repression.

TISHRIN says that yesterday's Gaza massacre has enabled Israel to implement a major part of its criminal scheme of dismembering the Palestinians, having firmly controlled their affairs under the Oslo agreement.

TISHRIN adds: Consequently, the Palestinians have now been forced to struggle on two fronts—against the usurping Israel and against the self-rule authority which has made its duty to implement the occupiers' orders.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: What Syria has frequently warned against has taken place. The Palestinian people have not only been stabbed in the back, but their national unity, security, and future are being threatened. Despite all the agreements that have been signed, peace is very far away from the Middle East, for peace and justice are inseparable. Justice means that the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories must be removed and the Palestinian people's rights to freedom and self-determination be recognized.

AL-BA'TH Holds Israel Responsible

JN2011092294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Discussing the Gaza massacre, AL-BA'TH says in an editorial that there is no doubt now that the actions of the self-rule authority police were the result of demands by Yitzhaq Rabin's government on the self-rule leadership; demands which linked the continuation of that authority to ending the growing Palestinian opposition to all results of the Oslo agreement.

The paper adds: Those who observed Israeli media yesterday and the day before yesterday undoubtedly realized the motives of that heinous massacre. Several Israeli officials said, in so many words, that Israel has waited for a long time for such a moment, one which reminds them of the intifadah, but this time against 'Arafat.

The paper adds: The foundations of the peace process still exist. If the region is to enjoy security, stability, and peace, then everyone should abide in full with the implementation of the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula.

TISHRIN discusses the furious reaction against the massacre committed by the self-rule authority's police against the Gaza residents. The paper says: Undoubtedly, the growing anger and protest and the sympathy displayed by our people in the West Bank towns and villages toward the Gaza citizens and the victims of the massacre clearly show that the Palestinian people's unity is stronger than the bullets of Oslo, the self-rule, and the security agreements between the Palestinian authority and the Israeli occupation authorities.

The paper adds: The popular anger will not stop at the point of protesting against the Oslo Agreement, but will provide a new driving force. This fact is being confirmed by the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland with a stronger unity and cohesion to foil and defeat the agreement and the conspiracy, to ward off attempts to start a civil war, and to escalate resistance to end the occupation and terminate all its pillars and negative

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effects on the Palestinian people and their objectives to establish an independent national state after ending occupation.

The paper stresses that the responsibility of the self-rule authority's police which committed this massacre is equal to the responsibility of Israel which paved the way for, and planned it in order to obtain certain gains and achieve certain objectives to make the Palestinian people yield to the Oslo agreement.

Palestinians' 'Blood-Stained Peace' Seen

JN2011151194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Since the limited self-rule authority's massacre of Palestinian citizens, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have been witnessing accelerating events and mounting threats overshadowing the negative impact of the shedding of Palestinian blood on Palestinian territory by Palestinian hands. However, the decision is an Israeli one in terms of its objective and its outcome. Since the signing of the Oslo agreement, Rabin has been insistently dictating to the limited self-rule authority how it should play its set role and how it should confront the people, repress their revolution, quell their intifadah, and bury their dreams and aspirations. No sooner had this authority's police committed their massacre that aggravated the world's living conscience, than Israeli officials, chiefly Rabin, expressed profound satisfaction with this role and noted that the authority has begun to understand what it is required to do, without being given anything in return. It is their blood-stained peace, a peace carrying death every morning and every evening. It is a peace laden with contradictions that can be observed by every Palestinian child carrying a stone to hurl at an Israeli soldier armed to the teeth, a child who later falls martyr, with a bare chest and a bleeding heart.

The massacre, which is internal in appearance but Israeli in content, proves the Oslo agreement was planned to lead the Palestinian situation to where it stands now, where Israel watches how the starving people are being repressed and how the tools whose training had started before the signing of the Oslo agreement are terminating the people's entire cause in the name of realism and the equation of the possible and the impossible, as they understand it.

When the Oslo agreement was signed, all parties said the agreement was a Palestinian affair that should be examined and decided by the Palestinian people, who will define their stand on the ground. Here, the Palestinian people are unanimously rejecting this agreement and proclaiming their unarmed disobedience against the agreement and the leadership implementing it with Israel's weapons, and its material and moral support. Therefore, the agreement is deemed materially and publicly dead unless Israel works hard and exploits its Arab and international influence to save what has remained of it, even though temporarily.

When Syria insisted on a comprehensive peace and Arab solidarity, deeming it a factor of strength, it was aware of the eventual fate of separate agreements that ignore the people's rights and dignity. As events testify, a fragile peace will lead to evil consequences for both its makers and the people. Those involved, as well as Israel, should realize that a peace that is not defended and protected by peoples, because it does not reflect their aspirations and objectives, is not a peace. Rather, it is a harbinger of an unknown destiny, a vague future, and possible dangerous consequences whose effects are not in line with the naivete with which they are acting.

Self-Rule Authority Said Responsible

JN2111084694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: Some members of the limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho have tried to evade responsibility for last Friday's [18 November] Gaza massacre. However, Yasir 'Arafat, himself, was not interested in his aides' attempts to evade responsibility for the massacre. He frankly announced his determination to impose the self-rule authority on the opposition by using all weapons, including the repression practiced by his authority. Thus, it has become crystal clear that 'Arafat is the first to be held responsible for the massacre and that the matter was premeditated. The plan was to intervene to quell a demonstration whose leaders had informed the limited self-rule authority of their intention to organize this demonstration. Furthermore, this authority gave the leaders of the demonstration permission to organize it. However, they were surprised when they were fired at. This, consequently, unleashed popular anger and ignited bloody confrontations between the stone-throwing youths on one side and the self-rule police on the other.

Although some members of the self-rule are trying to hold a third party—namely, the Zionist enemy—responsible for participating in the incidents and for showering the demonstrators with bullets, the self-rule authority is still responsible for the presence of armed collaborators and for not listing them among those who should be arrested and disarmed by this authority.

In fact, the self-rule authority began to act as if it is the shadow of the occupation, carrying out Rabin's instructions. It is not strange to see Israeli officials warmly applauding the Gaza massacre and considering this massacre a perfect response to the continuous activities of the Palestinian intifadah despite the Oslo accord and its annexes.

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'Massacre' Outcome of Israeli 'Instigation'

JN2111094494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the bloody and worsening situation in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, saying: The recent massacre has come to further complicate and exacerbate the situation, because it was the outcome of a daily and continuous Israeli instigation against Palestinian nationalist forces. Even after the heinous massacre, Israeli officials have asked 'Arafat to demonstrate that he is in charge by attacking and liquidating nationalist forces.

TISHRIN adds: These Israeli practices cannot lead to peace in the Middle East because peace is the antithesis of occupation. Israel is determined to persist with its occupation, repression, and terrorism. Likewise, it has sought to mislead the world by pushing certain sides to endorse separate deals that are detrimental to the peace process, and that undermine the resolutions passed by the international community.

The paper goes on to say: The relevant UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions provide for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan. Furthermore, they deem inadmissible the acquisition of territory by force, and any change to its features. Similarly, they denounce settlement activities in part and parcel.

The paper says: Recent events in Gaza Strip and the West Bank must prompt all international parties concerned with Middle East peace efforts to reconsider what is going on in order to straighten things out, rehabilitate the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference, and withhold support for Israeli positions, which have failed to nurture peace.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: If these parties seek to achieve true, durable, and comprehensive peace, then there is no alternative to implementing the relevant UNSC resolutions, and to telling Israel that the separate deals it is proposing are detrimental to the peace process and that its efforts to beleaguer the relevant international legitimacy resolutions must be brought to a halt. Moreover, Israel must be told that it has to discuss the components of just and honorable peace without any delay, and that it must take the lead in this regard by declaring a commitment to withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. The Palestinian people have the right to enjoy freedom on their national soil. In the same vein, Syria and Lebanon have the right to regain their territories. It goes without saying that the international community has the right to make the aggressor reverse his aggression.

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Afghanistan

Fighting Resumes Despite Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2011172694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After several days of calm, which was established in Kabul so the polio immunization program for Afghan children could be carried out by the Islamic of Republic of Iran, the Afghan groups resumed their fighting.

During the fighting, the supporters of [Borhanoddin] Rabbani and forces of [Golboddin] Hekmatyar attacked each other's positions with heavy weapons, and at least 40 civilians were either killed or injured.

Iranian Envoy Provides Aid for Winter

LD1911131394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the approach of the cold season, Islamic Republic of Iran, in humane act, has embarked on a broad food distribution in Kabul.

Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Gholam Reza Haddadi, said the aid delivery will be continued for four months. Mr. Haddadi added: The necessary coordinations in this relation have been made with the Afghan officials.

Iran has so far dispatched more than 150 planes carrying humanitarian aid for the Afghan people since the victory of the Afghan mojahedin in that country.

India

Rao on Economic Reforms, Foreign Investment

BK2111130994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says the country has attracted foreign investment worth 24,000 crore rupees since the government embarked on economic reforms. Addressing a meeting at Bellary in Karnataka, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said investment will accelerated industrial development, particularly in the infrastructure sector. He said such was the enthusiasm among foreign investors to pump money into India that the power minister, who had recently gone to the United States, signed agreements for setting up six power projects

Rao Congratulates Sri Lankan President on Election

BK1111113194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has congratulated Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga on her being elected as the president of Sri Lanka. In a message on behalf of the people and the Government of India, Mr. Narasimha Rao wished her every success in her endeavors. He expressed confidence that India and Sri Lanka will continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation and good neighborliness and promote closer ties and greater understanding between the two countries.

New Army Chief Appointed

BK2111093394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lieutenant General Shankar Roy Chowdhary has been appointed as the new army chief. Lieutenant General Roy Chowdhary is at present General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Army Training Command, Simla. This was announced in an official release in New Delhi today.

Lack of ICO Support for Pakistan Noted

BK1111090794 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Nov 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Return to Sender"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For once, the Pan-Islamic card has failed Pakistan where it mattered most: Islamabad's week-long bid to use the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] for manipulating the UN into furthering its claim to Kashmir has proved futile. The leader of the Pakistani delegation, Nawabzada Nasrau!lah Khan, frankly gave vent to his despair at his country's failure to enlist adequate support from the ICO members for tabling a resolution on the lines Islamabad wanted. Clearly, Pakistan found it difficult to convince the bulk of the ICO members that there is no contradiction between its insistence on involving the UN in the dispute over Kashmir and its professed acceptance of direct talks with India. Its pretence that it was genuinely interested in a bilateral settlement may well have been seen through. Whether most of the ICO members have also realised that the successive Pakistani governments' commitment to a perpetuation of a proxy war in the Kashmir valley has been behind this double-talk is, however, not yet fully clear. Still, the significance of their critical scrutiny of the devious ways in which the Pakistani diplomats tried to trick them into accepting the latter's draft of the intended resolution cannot be lost sight of.

For one thing, several ICO members have implicitly served notice that Islamabad should stop taking their support for granted for whatever it proposed in the name of Islam. Secondly, such members could not have been too happy at the Saudi-Pakistani axis which has turned the ICO secretariat in Jeddah into a virtual wing of the Pakistani Foreign Office for the past few years. If this secretariat has done precious little to resolve so many conflicts among the ICO member-countries, one reason certainly has been the Saudi-Pakistani intrigues centred

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on the two countries' own respective concerns. The severe setback suffered by Pakistani diplomacy in the present case is unlikely, however, to nudge Islamabad towards devising a more constructive policy on Kashmir. In fact, the Pakistani rulers will, characteristically, try now to turn the Republican triumph in the US Congressional elections to advantage. This is because Republicans like Mr Jesse Helms, cast in the Dullesian mould and a virtual anti-Indian psychopath, are likely to chair key committees in either House. Islamabad is certain to cultivate them more assiduously than hitherto.

Iran

Reaction to Inter-Palestinian Clash Reported

Foreign Ministry Condemns Killings

LD1911111794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following yesterday's attack by the PLO police against worshippers, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of Muslims, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry condemned the act and expressed regret that the PLO is averting the Palestinian struggle against the occupiers.

The spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran, from the very beginning, has seen the PLO-Tel Aviv agreement as a new conspiracy aimed at averting the anti-Zionist struggle of the Palestinian nation and turning it into a Palestinian fight against other fellow Palestinians.

He added: The Friday tragedy, which by firing at the children of the intifadah was an act serving the interests of the occupiers, was the first stage of the implementation of the Oslo agreement. It explains that any kind of compromise or cooperation with the Zionist regime achieves nothing. It is an act of treachery against the Palestinian ideal, and it helps the continuation of the occupation of Jerusalem, the further killing of Muslims, and makes Palestinians homeless.

Majles Condemns 'Arafat's Forces

LD1911113794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Policy Commission of the Islamic Consultative Majles issued a statement condemning the killing of Muslim worshipers in Gaza by the 'Arafat forces.

The statement mentions: The criminal act in Gaza by the 'Arafat forces of attacking Friday prayer worshippers, which killed and injured hundreds of people, revealed the ugly face of the Zionist conspiracy.

The statement of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Islamic Consultative Majles stresses: Muslim Palestinians and the self-sacrificing combatants of the path of Islam should be assured that the nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the entire Islamic community are always behind them. It was clear from the very beginning that 'Arafat and the issue of the so-called self- rule, which is tantamount to nothing but the continuation of the same crimes by the Zionist regime, is being implemented this time by mercenaries who are merely called Palestinian.

Police Offense Viewed as 'Savage'

NC1911080794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The savage and unprecedented attack by 'Arafat's police on the worshippers of a mosque in Gaza city that resulted in the martyring of approximately 20 and wounding of more than 200 persons, once again proved that 'Arafat and his repressive police force are not any different from the Zionist regime and are even more dangerous than the Zionist enemy for the Palestinian people and the intifadah.

'Arafat's danger to the intifadah stems from the fact that he is striving to embroil the Palestinian society in a civil war, while similar actions by the Zionist regime have consistently served to foster greater unity among the Palestinians. The Islamic Palestinian groups have managed to thwart this plot by 'Arafat by means of their vigilance and revolutionary fortitude. However, the thoughtless actions by 'Arafat have unfortunately created a rift in Palestinian society which deepened with the heinous killings yesterday.

Most political analysts believe that this horrifying atrocity perpetrated by 'Arafat and the suppression of the Islamists in general is a blatant blunder which may result in his political elimination. It is certain that the people of Palestine are more concerned with their political ideology [preceding word in English] than any other nation. After a prolonged experience, they chose political Islam as the ideology of their deliverance and continue to pursue it. Now friends and foes acknowledge that the intifadah is the most important and persistent message in the occupied territories in the past half century and is the result of this major development.

In view of this fact, the Palestinian nation has rejected 'Arafat due to these belligerent policies against the trend of Islamism, which embrace the majority of the Palestinian people. If 'Arafat loses his base completely among the Palestinian people, he will not be of any value or use to the enemy either. It is regrettable that 'Arafat has undertaken the arrests, suppression, and killing of those

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whose struggle and self-sacrifice in the course of the intifadah were the main factors for his coming into power.

Press Views Assault as 'Fratricide'

LD2011092394 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Two English-language dailies, 'TEHRAN TIMES' and 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in their editorials here Sunday [20 November] denounced the last Friday massacre of Palestinian worshippers by 'Arafat police.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL called 'Arafat as the main "losing side of the conflict" while TEHRAN TIMES referred to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a collaborator of the Zionist regime.

TEHRAN TIMES said that the PLO is no longer considered by the Muslim people of Palestine as their representative, rather it is a collaborator of the arch-enemy of the Palestinian nation.

Touching on the reaction of Yitzhaq Rabin, his friends and allies in the region to the widespread Islamic movement which he allegedly attributed to Iran, TEHRAN TIMES said that such allegations would not rescue them from the self-created impasse.

"Collaboration of the (PLO) with the Zionist regime, aiming at exterminating the Islamic movement in occupied Palestine in effect, has debunked the myth of PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian nation," said the editorial.

Referring to the concern expressed by the Egyptian president over the new round of uprising in Gaza, the daily said Friday bloodshed sent ripples of shock and disbelief through the same corridors of power that has so far supported 'Arafat.

Being aware of the fact that the self-rule has drastically eroded the social bases of the PLO, the Zionist regime is developing new strategies to get closer to the genuine Islamic movements such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

However, the Palestinian Muslim nation and their real representatives relying on Islamic teachings would not be entrapped by the Zionist plots and will continue their struggle until the day they become the master of their own destiny, concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Commenting on the same subject KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL stressed that the Gaza massacre pointed up the fact that the PLO chairman will be looked upon more as a Zionist military commander than leader of a Palestinian faction.

Now with Palestinian fratricide 'Arafat, who had been grappling with three major problems up until Friday, including no cash to run the self-rule areas, lack of semblance of security in Gaza and Jericho and the growing militancy of the various Palestinian Islamic liberation movements, has another concern which is a sort of civil war, the daily noted.

It added that from 'Arafat's statements and those of his close aides it can be ascertained that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has the mandate to suppress Hamas and Islamic Jihad whatever the cost.

Six months after the PNA's self-rule began, it has not gained anything but headlong fallen into the Zionist camp and continues to alienate itself among common Palestinians, wrote the daily. The article added that everything seems to be working against what 'Arafat has anticipated and as the situation gets out of control in the self-rule areas Westerners will try to distance themselves from it.

"Scenarios may change as loyalties switch in the volatile Mideast. The whole 'peace process' may start to look different than the way it was planned," it said.

The daily concluded by saying, " 'Arafat and his Zionist friends may simply vanish from the region's political map. But Hamas, Islamic Jihad and all those logically opposed to Israeli barbarism will not disappear from the scene for more reasons than one."

'Arafat Seen Facing 'Difficult Choice'

LD1911133994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1051 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The savage attack by 'Arafat's police on the worshippers at the Palestine Mosque in Gaza City, which resulted in over 200 killed and wounded, has confronted 'Arafat with a difficult choice. He now either has to turn to the Palestinian people, in which case he will lose the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho; or he has to adhere to compromise with the Zionist regime, in which case the Palestinian people will turn away from him. The point is that 'Arafat is not at all able to weld together the Palestinian people and the Gaza-Jericho compromise, and sooner or later he will have to chose one or the other.

'Arafat's efforts to gain people's support for his decisions, which have met with difficulties since the signing of the compromise with the Zionist regime, have recently, in the wake of the adoption of a hostile attitude toward Islamists and the Muslim people of the occupied territories, become utterly impossible. He is now facing a greater legitimacy crisis than ever before.

The PLO's Executive Council meeting which was due to take place last week in Gaza City failed to reach a quorum because 10 of its 18 members were absent. This shows that 'Arafat is even failing to gain the PLO's support for his policies. At the session, some of the

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clauses of the PLO's Constitution were to have been amended or cancelled and brought into line with 'Arafat's compromise with the Zionist regime.

In the midst of all this there is no doubt that the more 'Arafat alienates himself from the Palestinians, the more easily he will turn into a tool of repression, since he has no political affinity with the Palestinian people. This is an undesirable outcome for America and Israel and is out of step with their general scenario and the role they have envisaged for 'Arafat.

With the signing of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule compromise, Washington and Tel Aviv hoped that, by this means, they would be able to split the intifadah and the several-year-long uprising of the Palestinian people from the inside, and completely destroy the aspiration to liberate Jerusalem. This fact demonstrates that 'Arafat is also in difficulty when it comes to opting for his other choice—that is, to push forward the compromise.

Faruq Qaddumi, one of 'Arafat's close aides, has announced that 'Arafat's hostile attitude toward the Islamists stems from pressure brought on him by the Zionist regime, which has made the implementation of the rest of the clauses of this compromise conditional on the complete repression of the Islamists. Even though there is no need for an explanation to prove this, it is clear that even the least implementation of this policy means that 'Arafat would be completely alienated from the Palestinian people without getting any closer to his objectives.

If the Zionist regime, which benefits from vast military resources, has not been able to extinguish the bright flames of the intifadah in the past few years, in spite of the savage methods it employed, it is unlikely that 'Arafat and his police—whose strength is not comparable to that of the Zionist regime—could do so. Meanwhile, the motives are not comparable either. In their repression of the Palestinian people, the Zionist forces believe that their existence depends on the destruction of the Palestinian people, and in spite of this powerful motive, they failed to quell the intifadah. 'Arafat's forces, just like the oppressed people of Palestine, are the victims of Zionist aggression and there is a kind of affinity between them and the people. 'Arafat's policy in intensifying the contradictions in the Palestinian community will, sooner or later, force the individuals serving in the Palestine police to make a choice. Whatever the result of this choice it will not be in the interest of 'Arafat.

'Arafat's 'Servility' Viewed

NC2011123894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Nov 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Battle Continues on the Main Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the martyrdom-seeking operation by a Palestinian combatant, which was one of the greatest attacks of its kind in the Gaza Strip since the autonomous government came into effect, 'Arafat condemned this attack. He ordered the arrest of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine and 95 of its leaders were arrested.

The fact is that such actions by the Zionist regime and its pawns such as 'Arafat not only do not impede the path of the Palestinian Muslims, they even serve as catalysts. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the following facts:

1. 'Arafat has shown—by his servility—that he prefers to safeguard the structure of his false power over the Palestinian aspirations and he is even ready to act like an Israeli soldier for the repressive machinery of the Zionist regime. This is because what he had proclaimed as a minimal action for the optimal attainment of the actual objective is nothing but a political lie. The true nature of 'Arafat's lie, announced during the signing of the accord of surrender, transpired shortly afterward.

Of course, by signing the above accord and his actions before and after it in the course of the compromise trend, 'Arafat has lost all its political legitimacy. His latest actions can only serve to further increase the extent of the hatred of the world's Muslims and the oppressed Palestinian people.

2. The other fact is that 'Arafat is nothing more than an incidental appendage at present who is only being supported by Israel until it attains its ill-omened objectives. One of the aims of the Zionist regime is to internalize the clashes and to mask its illicit domination of the occupied territories.

However, there is no doubt that these and other objectives of the Zionists despite the constant efforts of 'Arafat and his ilk will not yield any results. This is because if the PLO were to fall out with the Palestinian combatants, the latter would only view this within the framework of a Palestinian problem with the usurpist Jerusalem regime, and the atrophied structure of the PLO led by 'Arafat, who has abandoned the ranks of the Palestinian combatants, would soon lose the very philosophy of its existence. The battle on the actual front between the Palestinian Muslims and the usurpist Zionists will continue and 'Arafat will appear even more disgraced than ever before.

Students Storm Palestinian Embassy

LD2011145494 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—A group of university students staged a demonstration in front of the Palestine Embassy in Tehran today to protest Friday's massacre of Muslim worshippers in Gaza city by Yasir 'Arafat's police. The demonstrators shouted slogans against Israel and chairman of the

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Palestine liberation organizations, Yasir [words indistinct] of civilians were gunned down by 'Arafat's police in Gaza city after Friday prayers.

The demonstration was held without prior notice. The angry demonstrators, numbering a few hundreds, shouted slogans such as "Down With Israel" and " 'Arafat, a Tool in the Hands of Zionists." They broke into the embassy building but were forced to leave there soon after police forces intervened. A number of the students were also arrested. Until 16:00 hours (12:30 GMT) tens of the protesting demonstrators were still in front of the embassy demanding immediate release of the detainees.

In a statement read in front of the Palestinian Embassy, the demonstrators called for closure of the embassy. They said 'Arafat's hands were stained with the blood of Gaza worshippers and that his colleagues should no longer be allowed to continue their activities here.

According to the latest reports, the demonstrating students who had gathered in front of the Palestine Embassy here, dispersed after their detained colleagues were freed. Police had detained 20 of the demonstrators.

Palestinian 'Resistance' Seen Defeating Israeli Policy

NC1911172894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Nov 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Defeat of Israel's Policy of 'Transferring the Crisis'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The autonomous Gaza-Jericho region and all other occupied Palestinian territories are daily witnessing opposition and martyrdom-seeking operations which have endangered the future of the Arab-Israel compromise trend as well as its founders.

Tel Aviv tried to implement the policy of "transferring the crisis" to the autonomous Gaza-Jericho region by making false promises to Yasir 'Arafat whom they appointed for their final suppression. This policy is shifting the arrows of opposition from aiming at Israel to targeting the Palestinians themselves, those Palestinians who are now sacrificing the Palestinian aspirations within the framework of the PLO.

However, the reality is that if these clashes, which are mounting daily, continue with such martyrdom-seeking operations, the line of compromise will be shattered and the aforementioned policy of Tel Aviv will become ineffective. This opposition threatens not only Tel Aviv but the Israeli borders as well.

The above facts indicate that Israel and the obsequious Arab regime will constantly be confronted by such hostile operations because they have ignored the wishes of the people. This wave that is endangering the peace process and the existence of the usurper Jerusalem regime has made their future very uncertain.

Yazdi Urges Change in Divorce Settlements

LD1811211694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 18 Nov 94

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, at Tehran University on 18 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the basis of a resolution recently passed by the Expediency [Discernment] Council and following the correction of this resolution by the Expediency Council, if a man wishes to divorce his wife without any excuses: that is, the woman has done nothing wrong and she is not responsible for initiating the divorce; that is, the woman submits to her husband and has respected his rights and there is no problem; nevertheless the man might say: Divorce is in the hand of husbands [last phrase in Arabic]; and I, therefore, wish to divorce you and marry another woman [sentence incomplete as heard].

This issue has been discussed before. But as to why the statesmen and the legislative authorities go back to discussing these issues, as I have said before, it is because there are such cases in society; It is because of the bad examples set by some of our men. Of course, I do not wish to offend men. I have said on other occasions that if we were to collect some statistics, we would find out that more than 97 or 98 percent of our married couples lead a happy successful life; and that the husband and wife are friends and kind to each other; and they respect each other's rights. This is particularly true as the husband and wife live together for a longer time. As they become older, truly they start thinking of life after death. At that stage they make certain that they do not violate each other's rights; they make sure, their partner is happy. They keep thinking that they will be called [by God] to account.

However, there are a few [husbands], who frankly behave unfairly. I tried to avoid using the word "cruelly," I said "unfairly." I know of such examples, couples who have gone through poverty and hardship together and gradually their lot improves. I know such examples, but I must not divulge their names at this platform because of my status and responsibility in the judiciary. My position in the judiciary makes me well-informed of the cases referred to civil courts and the difficulties the civil court judges face. Despite the fact that the new system has resolved some of these problems and difficulties, I can still see some behaving unfairly. I have seen examples of couples that, after having three or four children and coming through thousand stages of hardship, after going through the life's ups and down—poverty, sickness, homelessness, etc—now that he has got a desk job or come into some money, and probably, God forbid, has made acquaintance of a young woman in the work environment or outside, he wishes to divorce his wife and marry the other woman. He has been deceived by satan; and of course he does not intend

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committing a sin. However, he says: I have had enough, I want to divorce my wife and marry a new wife.

As there have been some cases when that poor woman ...[pauses]...I have made an interpretation [of the law], and some people have written to me asking me what has been the basis for my interpretation. I really possess both legal and religious [shar'i] proofs. That oppressed woman—and of course it means there must have been an oppressor that it leads to someone being oppressed—when an oppressed woman has no father, no mother, no wealth, no livelihood and she is not accepted anywhere; such a woman is told that it is none of his business and she has to leave his house. Occasionally, he does not even accept the customary period [for paying alimony]. He says that she should not set foot in this house any more and deals with her in a very inhumane fashion. Such cases have led to the approval of this legal article.

The gist of this legal article is that in such cases if a man wishes to divorce his wife, the court can, or must, investigate the amount of wealth which they have accumulated during the period from the start of their joint life to the time of divorce, and that at the discretion of the court up to half of that wealth should be given unconditionally by the man to that woman, before being able to use his right to divorce her.

This is a resolution [mosavvabe]. In practice, it met with many difficulties in its implementation. Some judges were saying that the issue of divorce is a civil [madani] issue, while the payment of that sum is a legal [hoquqi] matter. These two issues should be dealt with by two different courts. We may accept divorce, but the issue of the payment of this sum should be dealt with by another court; and many other such difficulties. The issue was again discussed in the Expediency Council. In the Expediency Council it was approved that the same court which deals with divorce and which issues the certificate of divorce, the same court should also deal with the issue of defining the amount of income and the amount that should be paid to the wife. The same court should issue the verdict and should enforce it. This is the main part of the issue.

What I wish to refer to here is that there is a difference between the conditions that have been stipulated in the [marriage] contract, the rights which are derived from the conditions which have been stipulated in the contract, and the law which has been passed and the need for implementing the law. The law is not dependent upon the conditions [stipulated in the marriage contract]. It means that even if a man and woman have not stipulated such conditions in their marriage contract, the court is dutybound to enforce it. This is a law. The law is not dependent upon the conditions. The law does not say that if a man and woman have stipulated that certain conditions should be carried out in the case of divorce, only then can this be carried out. The law says that if such divorces take place this law should be implemented, and the court should carry this out. This is not one of the conditions stipulated in the marriage contract. This is a right which the law has given to the wife due to the cases which I referred to.

Therefore, this issue should be borne in mind, and especially the officials of the registry offices, the tribunals and courts, and the esteemed judges of the courts where in the new system they have general jurisdiction; and in those cases where the new system has not yet been implemented and civil courts are still acting separately; all of them should pay attention to this point that this does not come under the category of conditions [stipulated in the marriage certificate]. This is a legal matter and it is a legal right. Therefore, the second part, namely the rights which are derived from the conditions [set out in the marriage certificate] comes under this general principle which we referred to. This is a law and not a condition; even though in the marriage contract it is regarded as one of the conditions.

It seems that it is not right and it should be corrected. Definitely, honorable judges will pay attention to this point. [passage omitted]

Prophets Discussed in Second Sermon

LD1911164794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1158 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, in Tehran on 18 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The issue which I said may take a few minutes is the issue which our country is somehow facing at the moment and is a current issue. All of us know about the condition of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki. May God restore him to full health. However, under the present conditions the issue of emulation is raised everywhere. Whoever one talks to, their first or second question is about this issue. I do not wish to deal directly with this matter, but I do wish to refer to some generalizations. Naturally, we, the nation, and the people will perform our duty on the basis of these yardsticks, principles, and religious injunctions.

As an introduction I should say that all of us know that the Prophet of Islam in addition to being a prophet was also a ruler. It means that he was also the guardian of the cause of the Muslims. I have spoken in detail about this issue here before. Koranic verses refer very clearly to this issue. There are many verses but, for instance, the holy verse which says that Muhammad is the Prophet of God only refers to his holiness's function as a prophet of God. It says that he is a prophet. And before him there were other prophets [Koranic verse]. There have been other prophets before and he is also a prophet. But there is another holy verse which says: It is not fitting for a believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by God and his apostle, to have any option about their decision. In this verse reference is made to

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the guardianship [velayat] of the Prophet. It says that when the Prophet of God said something, no one can say anything different. This is a reference to the holy Prophet's guardianship. He was a guardian.

There is another verse —O ye who believe, obey God, and obey the apostle and those charged with authority among you. This is an injunction that has been revealed in many other verses and enjoins obedience to the Prophet in matters of guardianship and in his decrees as a guardian. Therefore, the Prophet of God was both a prophet and elucidator of injunctions, as well as the guardian of the cause of the Muslims who implemented the injunctions. He was the head of the government. He issued orders in governmental issues. Our people and the Muslims as a whole refer to the issue of Islamic government from the time when the Hejira took place and he went to Medina. However, governmental orders existed even before that date.

In any case, he was both a prophet as well as a guardian. After the Prophet of God, the rightly guided Imams and those responsible for the affairs of Muslims were also the same. They were the interpreters of divine injunctions, as well as possessing guardianship over the Muslims, and they implemented the laws of God. The Lord of the Faithful [Imam 'Ali, the first Shiite imam and the fourth orthodox caliph], peace be upon him, elucidated divine laws and injunctions. At the same time, he also implemented them and was in charge of the government. The same is true about the rest of our imams. Of course, most of the disagreements and conflicts concerned this issue; as the tyrannical governments were saying that the imams should not interfere in government and should only express religious opinions. This is what they said to our imams. If our imams did not wish to interfere in government, if they did not seek guardianship, and if they did not regard guardianship as belonging to them there would have been no argument. [passage omitted]

This situation continued up to the time of the Lord of the Age [12th Shiite imam believed to have gone into hiding], may God hasten his noble advent. During the time of the Major Occultation—please pay attention, here is the main point—this matter, this responsibility which was placed on the shoulders of the Lord of the Age, may God hasten his noble advent, which he had inherited from his blessed ancestors and from the Prophet of Islam, this responsibility was placed on the shoulders of the fully qualified grand faqihs [grand ayatollahs]. What was this responsibility? It was both the interpretation of divine injunctions and the guardianship of the cause of the Muslims. In other words, they should both say what God's injunctions are as well as administering the affairs of the Muslims, protecting the Muslims, recognizing sources of danger, and guarding against dangers.

The grand faqihs became the heirs of the hidden imam in all the functions which belonged to the imam; namely, the elucidation of the teachings and the guardianship of the community; both responsibilities. What one can refer to briefly here is the famous epistle which was issued from that holy source [letter allegedly written by the hidden imam to his first deputy], in which the imam, peace be upon him, said: Regarding the events which come to pass, refer to those who hand down our traditions [preceding sentence in Arabic]. It is followed by the statement that their decree is God's decree and whoever opposes them has violated God's decree.

There is another sentence in "Maqbuleh" [book of traditions] by 'Umar ibn-Hanzalih where the issue is a judicial issue and is about a conflict regarding inheritance and debts. There, too, his holiness the hidden imam said: Refer to a man from among yourselves. This is what we use in arguing in favor of the Twelver Shiism. He said: Refer to a man from among yourselves who narrates our traditions, who is aware of what is enjoined and what is forbidden by us, who understands our teachings; to him is given the authority to issue verdicts and he becomes a ruler. The meaning of these sentences is: Refer to our faqihs, those who understand our language, who understand our teachings, who can find out our intentions through the traditions left to us; namely, the same grand faqihs who can deduct God's teachings through the Book [Koran], the sunnah [Prophet's actions], and the tradition of the immaculate imams, God's peace be upon them. He [the hidden imam] has delegated authority to those people. Here, the issue was a judicial issue. Of course, the grand faqihs have said that judicial issues are one of those powers.

Well, are these two interpretations the same to you or are there differences between them [sentence as heard]? Allameh Amini [Muslim jurist], may he be admitted to God's paradise, in his book "Al-Qadir" in his discussion of guardianship quotes some sentences from the religious authorities and faqihs. One sentence is repeated in the sayings of a number of those leading faqihs about the conditions of guardianship. In one of them it is said that the guardian should be an independent mujtahid [person entitled to issue independent judgement in religious matters] in issuing fatwas, in events [nawazil], and decrees. In another interpretation, he quotes a saying from one of the leading authorities that the source of emulation should be a mujtahid—there is no mention of a non-mujtahid—in events [hawadith] and decrees. This interpretation has been used by many others. I believe that all of them are derived from the same source regarding events [hawadith]. Hawadith is almost the same as nawazil. This refers to events which take place, the incidents, the occurrences.

What are these events? One of these events is when an Islamic country is threatened by an enemy invasion. This is an event. It is an event, for instance, when America comes to the Persian Gulf and spreads out its wares, uses the maintenance of security as an excuse or says that it has been invited here. It comes here and achieves its political or economic aims; it also thinks later whether it can have some dealings with us or can

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frighten us. This is an event. Who should be a mujtahid in the face of these events and who can decide about what is an event or, according to the interpretation of the grand faqihs, is one of the occurrrnces [nawazil], meaning something which suddently comes about, an event which suddenly takes place. [passage omitted]

Consequently, we conclude that during the period of Occultation, the grand faqihs are both the interpreters of teachings—meaning that they issue fatwas, and say that this is allowed, this is forbidden, this is clean and that is unclean—as well as being managers and guardians of the society and responsible for running the affairs of the Muslim community. It is not possible for the Islamic community not to have a responsible person during the period of Occultation. However, in the past, due to the fact that their hands were tied [qabz-i yad]; let me say it in Persian, due to the fact that the hands of our faqihs were tied and tyrannical and satanic rulers had tied their hands and did not allow them to take part in governmental and state affairs, nevertheless, all of them wherever they were, interfered in governmental affairs as much as it was possible for them to do so. Our history is full of such cases.

At any one time, six or seven leading faqihs who lived in the major cities of this country or other Islamic countries interfered in some of the governmental issues; so much so that at times the governors or governors general protested and it led to conflicts and arguments between that leading faqih and the governors, and many examples have been cited. In other words, a faqih regarded himself as a guardian too, as well as issuing fatwas.

Look at the case of the late Kashif al-Ghita who lived at the time of that king who regarded himself as being very just and whom many people have also praised [Fath-'Ali Shah, second king of Qajar dynasty]. If you look at his famous book you will see that his theological and governmental discussions are intertwined. In the same book on theology he also refers to the war between Iran and Russia, and he makes specific remarks in some instances.

In other words, the faqihs do not only issue fatwas. During the period of the Occultation one cannot say that the Islamic ummah should find someone who says how one should perform the evening or night prayers, or whether certain things are clean or unclean; or some issues which affect individuals, which deal with transactions or devotional issues; issues which are individual and play no social role. Can one say that the Islamic ummah should find someone who instructs them only in those issues, regardless of what happens concerning the administration and the guardianship of the Muslims? It cannot be so. During the period of Occultation the faqihs are responsible. They should both elucidate the teachings, as well as managing the ummah.

Thanks be to God, after many centuries, as the result of the self-sacrifice, efforts, and endeavors of the late imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the brave Muslim Iranian nation, an Islamic government was established in this country. In other words a faqih—the late imam—was both a faqih and a guardian, a manager, and a ruler; just like the Lord of the Age, peace be upon him, he performed the duties of the imams and the duties of the prophet which was the elucidation of divine teachings and administering the ummah.

At a time when an Islamic government has been announced, marja'iyat and guardianship should be together, and should assist one another. I will not elaborate this matter any further. Discussing marja'iyat without paying attention to guardianship, and discussing guardianship without paying attention to marja'iyat do not agree with the principles which I have just referred to. Even leaving the political discussion to one side, these two should assist one another. Those people should be chosen and the matter should be decided in such a way that, in practice, these two functions are implemented together. This is as much as I wish to say.

Concerning how to decide the issue, the Prophet has clarified it. Either you are a mujtahid yourself, or you ask the views of expert mujtahids, or you ask those who are knowledgeable about these issues—as it has been set out in the risalahs [jurisprudential treatises]. I believe that with this introduction one can find the right answers. May God protect the Islamic ummah in such sensitive cases from all the dangers. [passage omitted]

'Setback' for U.S. Democrats Assessed

NC2011125494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Nov 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Beginning of a Retrogressive Trend for the Democrats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finally, with the announcement of the preliminary results of the congressional (the Senate and the House of Representatives) and gubernatorial elections, the Republicans gained a majority, as had been anticipated. In fact, this setback for Clinton and his Democratic Party associates marks a retrogressive trend for the party against the Republicans that will ultimately put an end to Clinton's golden fantasies in the White House.

In addition to gaining power in the governorships in 30 states, which has been unprecedented since 1970, the Republicans in Congress gained the majority for the first time in the past 40 years. According to the initial count, the Republicans gained 232 of the 435 seats.

The fact is that a byproduct of democracy in the United States has always been the ploy of "deceit." This ploy was used by the Democrats and Clinton to attract the people's votes. Now they are witnessing their own defeat as a result of the use of this ploy by the rival party.

Two years ago, Bill Clinton attained power with claims that he would attend to domestic issues and rectify the interventionist foreign policy. Today, in view of the

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contradiction between his slogans and his actions, he is losing supporters in Congress for his party. Washington's repeated intervention in Somalia, Haiti, the Persian Gulf etc., imposed heavy expenditures on the American Government and society. Ultimately, the American citizens had to bear the brunt of this expenditure. The U.S. financial system has embroiled the American people in paying the costs of its domestic programs and foreign intervention.

The American people had reached the end of their endurance as a result of the 12 years of the Republicans (Reagan and Bush) being in power and pinned their hopes on the mirage presented by the Democrats and Clinton. Once again the American people realized that they had been deceived and therefore out of sheer pessimism and political indifference they veered toward the Republicans, whose record of foreign intervention is even blacker than that of the Democrats.

The results of the recent U.S. elections have limited the power of political maneuver [preceding word in English] for Clinton for the remaining two years of his presidential term. He does not hope to be reelected but is calling for the support of his Republican rivals to prevent conditions from deteriorating further.

The exhausting political and military foreign conflicts, the approval of GATT in the foreign sphere, the various programs regarding health insurance services, the reining in of the crime wave etc., are all issues in American society will motivate Clinton to view his rivals outside his party with greater reverence in the future.

Clinton has accepted that the best political fate for him would be to conclude the second half of his term without falling prey to political scandal and disgrace. Thus, Clinton, who did not have a very brilliant record in his social life, will be returning to his past after an even heavier defeat in the political field.

U.S. Elections Analysis: Democrats' 'Pitiful'

NC1911162694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Nov 94 p 14

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis" feature: "Outlook on the Democrats' Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The results of the midterm congressional and gubernatorial elections in various parts of the United States requires extensive discussion.

The defeat of the Democrats in these elections indicates that from the vantage point of the American people, the Democrats cannot be trusted and could not even maintain the most rudimentary trust of the country's people to tide them over a four-year term. Even though the recent elections ostensibly have no direct relationship to Clinton's popularity, a cursory appraisal confirms that the elections can be construed as a defeat for the policies of Clinton and the Democrats after so brief a period of rule.

Let us not forget that, generally, these very statistics and opinion polls are influenced by nominated candidates and political parties through various deceptive and propaganda means. Therefore, if we were to embark on an assessment of the election results without taking into consideration such narrow propaganda, the Democrats would be in an even more pitiful situation than they appear to be.

The basic point to be noted in this regard is that even though the Americans are less political and are, in general, more concerned with issues of day-to-day living, the propaganda on the eve of the elections was not without effect. Despite all this, the defeat of the Democrats proves that the social conditions and mundane issues in American life are not such that the people would accept such propaganda with their eyes and ears shut. They have gradually become disenchanted with the Democrats after comparing the current social conditions, crises resulting from the proliferation of sexual and financial corruption, as well as other social crises.

Meanwhile the people in American society are forced to choose from only two main political parties—that is, the Democrats and the Republicans—almost by turns. If they were driven by sheer pessimism to turn to the Democrats from the Republicans yesterday, today they are forced to repeat the experience of yesterday and revise their views so that once again they have to resort to the same wolves of yesteryear.

Commentary Views U.S. Election Outcome

NC2011101694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 10 Nov 94 p 15

[Commentary by Sa'id Leylaz: "The U.S. Elections and New Difficulties for Clinton"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the Congressional elections in the United States have proved that for the first time in the past four decades, the unquestioning and absolute domination of the Democrats over the legislative apparatus of the country has been uprooted and the Republicans have for the first time taken over control of the legislature by gaining a majority in the Senate and House of Representatives.

At a time when the White House desperately needs the support of the Congress, this trend could mean that the Democrats are in the process of losing the White House in the 1998 elections. The election of a Democratic president and the Democrats' coming into power in the United States showed that after four decades of the Cold War and the disintegration of the bipolar system, the American people not only did not feel the need for "Reaganism" on the U.S. political leadership scene, they did not consider the gains of this policy in their victory

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over the communist rival or even the Persian Gulf war scenario a great source of pride.

This is because, first and foremost, this victory created or aggravated the deep socio-economic crises in the United States. Second, there was no victory involved. What happened in practice was that with the help of funds and war equipment, the undermining of the UN's international popularity, new economic powers reared their heads in various parts of the world and are eroding the United States' economic power little by little.

The level of indifference of the U.S. voters in the four decades of the Cold War with its concomitant effects was so great that a representative of the new generation was chosen from among the Democrats, one who promised that in his "first 100 days" he would devote his attention solely to "domestic issues." This was in contradiction to the trend prevailing in the United States, as according to the well-known American critic Noam Chomsky, the tendency in the past three decades has been to elect a representative of the great business magnates as U.S. President and those belonging to the middle class to the Congress.

Despite the Democrats' control being centralized over internal affairs, the results in the past two years have not been very satisfactory and cannot justify the toll it has taken in the United States. At a glance, if we suppose that in the current year the U.S. economy has for the first time registered a growth of 4 percent, this is due to the general trend in the world after four years of recession and cannot be ascribed exclusively to the Democrats just as the former U.S. President had attributed the economic condition of the United States to the planning of the Republican team in 1990-92.

More important than the economic factors are the events that took place in U.S. diplomacy and transformed the results of the White House' strategy to a full-fledged catastrophe. Initially the Democrats' propaganda centered on isolationism and human rights but due to the ineptitude and confusion that reigned over the country's diplomacy brought matters to a point where not only was the general U.S. stance undermined in international conflicts, its intervention in the world also brought extensive ill-effects in its wake.

In practice, the worst possible results of this policy were evident in the Balkan conflict, the crisis on the Korean peninsula, the former Soviet Union, Somalia, Haiti, and in the Persian Gulf. In a mere two years, the United States had deployed troops in three parts of the world. Even the progress in the Middle East peace trend could not defuse rumors about the removal of the present U.S. Secretary of State due to incompetence in performing his duties.

In general, the victory of the Republicans in the U.S. Congressional elections shows that the American voters have lost their trust for the country's politicians and prefer to pit the White House and Congress against one another as in the 12 years of the Reagan and Bush era. This has also brought home the fact that in the difficult conditions after the Cold War and the beginning of a period of economic war, the American people need a more experienced cadre [preceding word in English] than the current occupants of the White House.

The results of these elections and of the difficult and inexperienced period of the past two years are staring the Democrats in the face. For the first time, they are in the White House without support of the Congress even though the Republicans faced similar conditions for most of their tenure.

All these developments as well as the presence of a third candidate—for the first time—in the last U.S. presidential elections indicate the American people's efforts and experiments in quest of a third path or party.

Commentary: Russian Peace Drive in Persian Gulf

LD2011132994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has embarked on a tour of four Persian Gulf States since Saturday, November 19 at the head of a top political, military, cultural, and economic team, met and conferred with Saudi King Fahd yesterday.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Saudi crown prince, talks were held on bilateral relations and Persian Gulf and Middle East issues.

This is at a time when economic and political circles are still engaged in surveying political and economic ties of Moscow with the shaykhdoms located south of the Persian Gulf, and also their future.

Meanwhile, Moscow-based newspaper IZVESTIYA has said that Russia's measures for stabilizing the situation in the region have aroused the U.S. anger.

It must be mentioned that since the Iraqi troop concentration along Kuwait-Iraq border, Russia has employed an act of diplomacy for the retreat of these troops and recognition of the Kuwaiti border as well Kuwaiti sovereignty by Baghdad. The diplomacy has proved successful. Closeness between Moscow and Baghdad has led to some ambiguity in connection with Russia's posture vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms. Apparently Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, during his current tour, has tried to clarify these stances and the [word indistinct] opinion of these countries south of the Persian Gulf.

This matter is important for Moscow because it has lagged far behind its rivals—namely America, Britain, and France—in the race for selling weapons to the Persian Gulf states.

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As inferred from the article carried by IZVESTIYA, Russia does not view as useful and effective the U.S. protective umbrella for the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms. In its opinion the umbrella will cost these states very expensive.

The expense for one day of U.S. troops stay in the region has been estimated at $20 million. In case of any war operations, the figure will increase to $50 million per day.

During the 1900/91 oil war in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia alone had to bear an expenditure of $50 billion. Since then, it has made arms purchases specially from the United States worth over $30 billion.

The Russian daily believes that the only way to get rid of the [word indistinct] and expensive situation is to set up a new security system with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

According to political observers, the plan will be in the position to bring durable security to the region in an amicable atmosphere, duly preserving the interests of all the little states of the Persian Gulf.

IRGC Calls For 20-Million Man Army

LD2011193494 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a communique here on the occasion of the Basij week that the political and military power of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be manifested by the actual creation of a 20 million strong army.

It said the Basijis (mass mobilization forces) are ready to sacrifice themselves in carrying out the orders of the leader of the Islamic revolution, and are ready to foil all plots of the enemies of Islam.

It said the Basijis are also ready to protect the lofty values of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The communique also called on the people to participate in the special ceremonies in commemoration of the Basij week.

First Georgian Ambassador Received

LD2011112694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the first Georgian ambassador to Iran.

At this meeting, Georgian Ambassador Dzhemshid Giunashvili presented his credentials and conveyed Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze' best greetings. He said the Georgian president continues to refer with warmth to the memories of his meeting with the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said Georgia believes Iran is an important political and economic country in the region and one which has an important and fundamental role in the maintenance of international rights and stabilization of regional peace and stability.

The Georgian ambassador also expressed gratitude for the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries to recognize Georgia's independence and to establish an embassy in the country. He said: Georgia is passing through a transitory period and in the light of the fair agreements reached between the two countries I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran will provide more help to Georgia in this period.

According to our correspondent, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied by expressing satisfaction over the expansion of relations with the Georgian republic and said Iran's foreign policy is based on helping the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus to consolidate their independence.

He added: Through a correct understanding of the situation and the problems of the above countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to mobilize all efforts and means to help solve the problems of the countries of central Asia and Caucuses, including Georgia, and deepening relations with them.

Syrian Envoy Says Human Rights Charges 'Groundless'

LD2011124694 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Syrian Ambassador to Tehran, Ahmad al-Hasan, here Saturday [19 November] refuted as groundless the recent claim by the European Parliament on human rights violation in Syria.

Interviewed by IRNA, al-Hasan called the allegations against Syria as a kind of blackmail on the part of the international Zionism.

Accusing Syria of human rights violation is a pressure lever being used after the U.S. President's recent tour of the Middle East in which he faced Syria's firm stance over the so-called Middle East peace process. The Syrian diplomat said that during Bill Clinton's visit to Syria he become aware of Syria's commitment toward its very basic principles and that it intends not to give any concession to its Zionist enemy.

Touching on allegations occasionally levelled against certain countries by the international Zionism, al-Hasan said such accusations are being levelled against Iran and Syria whose stances are not in compliance with Zionists' objectives.

He referred to the wide range crime committed by the Zionists ranging from attacks on southern Lebanon, kidnapping Lebanese citizens to killing innocent women

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and children and said why the international organizations which claim support for human rights keep mum over the blatant violation of human rights in the region. Instead, the Syrian diplomat added, they are making allegations of human rights violations against those countries which are not on the side of the Zionists.

The international Zionism, he said, with an aim to win a concession from the Islamic countries has levelled such claims and unfortunately certain law making institutions in the West inspired by Zionists' propaganda are following their footsteps.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) reported on Friday that the European Parliament claimed that prisoners are held in Syrian jails without trial and are under torture. The parliament also called on Syrian officials to stop human rights violations, the agency said.

Writers Unite To Fight Censorship

95LA0046A London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] We are the writers. The problems of modern history in our society and other societies have damaged the image of writers in the view of government, a segment of the society, and even some writers themselves. As a result, the identity of writers, the nature of their writings, and their collective action have been inappropriately confronted.

Therefore, we, the writers of Iran, consider it our duty to help eradicate any doubts and misperceptions about the nature of our cultural activity and reasons for our collective action.

We are writers and we write and publish in a variety of ways about our feelings, imagination, and the result of our research. It is our natural and social right that our writings reach the intended audience freely and without any obstacle, whether these writings are poetry, novels, scripts, scenarios, research papers, reviews, or translation of writings from other countries. Creating obstacles for publication of these writings by any individual or institution is unacceptable. However, after publication, everyone is free to pass judgement and criticize them.

When it is beyond the opportunity and ability of each one of us individually to resist obstacles, we are forced to deal with the problem collectively so that we can achieve freedom of thought, speech, and publishing, and resist censorship as a group. Therefore, we believe that our collective action as a professional group of Iranian writers is a guarantee of our individual freedom. A writer must be free to create his writing, be critical of writings of others, and speak out about his beliefs. Their collective action over common problems does not mean collective responsibility for each individual's personal problems. Each person is responsible for his own social and political problems.

Often, a writer is perceived and judged as one with an imaginary relationship or likely dependency on a political party or group. As a result, the professional and cultural group of writers is also considered a political party or movement. We emphasize that our main objective is to remove obstacles on the path of freedom of thought, speech, and publishing. Responsibility for any other interpretation of our action lies with individual interpreters.

Responsibility for any statement lies with whoever freely writes and signs that statement. Those who freely write in support or against us, within or outside of Iran, bear responsibility for their statements.

Obviously, all are free to analyze any writing. Criticizing writings of writers is necessary for cultural development but interfering in their private lives based on that criticism is a violation of their rights.

Such interference based on moral or ideological excuses is an affront to democracy and to the dignity of writers. It is the professional duty of writers to defend the human and civil rights of each writer under all conditions.

The conclusion is that: Our collective action is a guarantee of independence of writers. Each individual's personal thoughts and actions is not the concern of writers as a group. Therefore, we repeat the obvious fact that we are writers. Look upon us as writers. Look upon our collective action as an action by the professional group of writers.

Manouchehr Atashi, Amir Hoseyn Arianpour, Daryush Ashuri, Shahin Ahmadi, Mas'oud Ahmadi, Shiva Arastou'i, Hasan Asghari, Mohammad Reza Aslani, Jahangir Afkari, Asghar Elahi, Maftoun Amini, Mansour Owji, Parviz Baba'i, 'Ali Sha'bani, Mohammad Reza Bateni, Reza Baraheni, Shapour Bonyad, Mohammad Baharlou, Simin Behbahani, Mihan Bahrami, Mohammad Biabani, Bizhan Bijari, Bahram Beiza'i, Shahrnoush Parsipour, Sirous Parham, Hasan Pasta, 'Ali Reza Panjeh'i, Ahmad Pouri, Hasan Pouyan, Mohammad Pouyandeh, Changiz Pahlavan, Behrouz Tajour, Ahmad Tadyon, Goli Taraqqi, Farah Tamimi, 'Ali Reza Jabbari, Kamran Jamali, Mohammad Javaher-Kalam, Shapour Jourkash, Reza Joula'i, Jahed Jahanshahi, Reza Chaychi, Amir Hoseyn Chehel-Tan, Houshang Hesami, Ghaffar Hoseyni, Khosrow Hamzavi Tehrani, Zia'oddin Khaleqi, Khavari, 'Ali Asghar Khobrehzadeh, Aboutorab Khosravi, Mohammad Reza Khosravi, 'Azim Khalili, Simin Daneshvar, 'Ali Ashraf Darvishian, Mahmud Doulatabadi, Khashayar Deihimi, Akbar Radi, Morteza Ravandi, Fariborz Ra'is-Dana, Nosrat Rahmani, Munirou Ravanipur.

Copies were sent to newspapers and magazines as follows: 'ETTELA'AT, ABRAR, JUMHURI-E ESLAMI, JAHAN-E ESLAM, RESALAT, KEYHAN, HAMSHAHRI, ADABIYAT-E DASTANI, ETTELA'AT-E BEYNOLMELALI, IRAN-E FARDA, PAJ, PAYAM-E EMROUZ, TAKAPOU, DONYAY-E SOKHAN, DOURAN, ROUZEGAR-E VASL, ZANAN, ZENDEHROUD, SHABAB-E SHE'R, SAFHE-YE AVVAL, ROUH-E ADABI, KALAK, KEYHAN, KEYHAN-E

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FARHANGI, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, GARDOUN, GOFTOGOU, NASHR-E DANESH, NEGAH-EPANJSHANBEH (news section of) NEGAH-E NOU, and VARLIQ.

Ministry of Islamic culture and guidance, the International Pen Institute (all branches), and other worldwide writers' organizations.

The actual signatures are kept by organizers.

Pakistan

Islamabad Rejects Rao's Bilateral Talks Offer

BK2111091494 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 20—Pakistan on Sunday [20 November] rejected Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's invitation to Islamabad for bilateral talks on contentious issues because of New Delhi's insincerity to resolve the Kashmir dispute, said a Foreign Office spokesman.

"We have noted Mr Rao's statement, but India's actions in Kashmir do not create confidence that it is prepared to conduct sincere and meaningful talks to achieve a just and equitable solution to the Kashmir dispute," the spokesman said while reacting to the Indian Prime Minister's assertion that not only him, but the government and the people of India were ready for talks.

Interestingly, Rao's statement to an election rally at his home state Andhra Pradesh inviting Pakistan for talks on the eve of arrival of his Foreign Secretary K Srinivasin in Islamabad for the Commonwealth conference is meant for the consumption of international community.

Recognising this typical Indian ploy, the spokesman said: "While India would wish to demonstrate that a process of dialogue has resumed, it is obvious that it is designed merely to beguile the international community rather than constitute any indication of a sincere desire to resolve the Kashmir dispute."

The Foreign Office dismissed Narasimha Rao's reckoning that discussion on Kashmir could well drag for another decade but Pakistan and India must first "sit and discuss for four years."

Voicing impatience with such a proposal, the spokesman said "Pakistan would be prepared to undertake such talks once we are convinced that the conditions for their success exist," said the spokesman.

Categorically ruling out any "formal, informal or private talks" with the Indian Foreign Secretary during his three-day stay in Islamabad, the spokesman said: "Bilateralism for India is nothing but the acceptance of its own position by its neighbours." He said Mr Srinivasin will be one of the "42 senior officials attending the Commonwealth conference who will collectively call on Foreign Minister Sardar Asif who will later host a lunch for them while the Foreign Secretary will hold a dinner in their honour."

Reiterating the fact the Indian "rejected the Islamic Conference Organization proposal for the resumption of bilateral talks with the assistance of the UN Secretary-General," it was a clear indication that India lacked sincerity in its offer of bilateral talks, said the spokesman, while putting to rest speculations of any kind of a dialogue between Mr Srinivasin and the Pakistan government during the forthcoming Commonwealth conference. [sentence as published]

New Chiefs of Joint Staff, Navy Assume Posts

BK1111003094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that for an integrated defense system and to chalk out cohesive planning for contemporary warfare, it was an important duty of the joint staff headquarters to carry out its function in accordance with the changing strategic scenario. Speaking at a special review parade held in honor of the outgoing chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan, in Rawalpindi today, the president said the basic aim of establishing joint services headquarters was to bring about complete coordination, joint planning, and to evolve cohesive strategy. At the start of the ceremony, a joint services guard of honor gave general salute to the outgoing chairman. Gen. Shamim Alam Khan inspected the guard of honor which included a detachment from the 28th Cavalry, the regiment which the general commanded. The president paid rich tributes to Gen. Shamim Alam Khan, saying under his able leadership the Armed Forces have earned a place of great respect. This respect has further enhanced the nation's confidence in its Armed Forces. The president said during his tenure the general has given a new direction and introduced a new approach to the national defense planning.

In his farewell address, Gen. Shamim Alam Khan said in the modern age, there is no conflict of war [as heard] by individual services. All the three services have got to make an integrated effort to achieve the objective of national defense. He said he was bidding farewell to arms with the satisfaction that he has discharged his duties with dedication, diligence, and total commitment.

The ceremony also marked the assumption of appointment by Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan as the seventh chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The ceremony came to an end with the marching off by the guard of honor.

At Pakistan Navy's Zafar Formation in Islamabad this morning, the president said the government is giving high priority to the national defense needs despite the fact that national economy was facing constraints. The ceremony was attended, among others, by the chairman

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of the Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani; and the top brass of the Armed Forces. The president said:

[Begin Leghari recording] Economic development and military strength complement each other. It is impossible to sustain one without the other. It is for this reason that the government, despite financial constraints, has given high priority to our defense needs. The induction of ships, aircraft, and a program of modernizing some of the existing platforms of the Navy are indicative of the government's resolve in this regard. We all know that enormous foreign exchange is spent in meeting our defense needs by acquiring weapons and equipment from other countries. Naval ships, submarines, aircraft, and equipment are especially very expensive, but no price is too high for ensuring freedom and sovereignty. The government and the people happily bear this burden because they are aware that their Armed Forces, including the Navy, are professionally competent and will make the best use of these weapons to ensure that our sea lanes and frontiers are guarded against any aggression. [end recording]

The outgoing chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan, inspected the guard of honor presented by a contingent of the Pakistan Navy. In his speech, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan said the sustained development and expansion in all spheres of Navy over the past few years has been unprecedented. He said our long-term plans have been fully realized and are in various stages of implementation. Following the pulling out ceremony, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan handed over command of Pakistan's sea power to his successor Admiral Mansurul Haq. The new chief in his speech said in the face of growing threats and increasing responsibilities at sea, the need was to pursue vigorous policies for further strengthening and development of Naval forces. He said the Navy will remain a key element in ensuring the security, defense of the country, and safety of sea lanes.

U.S. Assailed for Not Delivering Military Gear

BK1811112894 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 Nov 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Plain U.S. Dishonesty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report citing government officials has revealed that Pakistan is ready to enter a phase of more amicable relations with the U.S. Government. These relations turned sour in October [as published] when military and economic aid to Pakistan was frozen under the Pressler Amendment. The report is noteworthy because Pakistan has not yet received the equipment and materials it was promised under a package of military sales to foreign countries in November 1988.

A delegation of Pakistani military officers visited Washington in the middle of September to hold talks on the delivery of this equipment and these materials. As far as U.S. military sales to Pakistan are concerned, Islamabad had signed separate agreements with Washington for the supply of P-3 and N-type [as published] aircraft for the Navy, Harpoon missiles, spare parts for tanks, several kinds of ammunition for the Army and Air Force, and several other materials. There was a separate agreement for the purchase of F-16 aircraft. Pakistan has already paid $658 million for the F-16's, the Navy has paid $400 million, and the Army $200 million—$1.258 billion in all—for the purchase of military hardware that has still not been delivered. Is this U.S. behavior justifiable under any legal, ethical, or trade principle? On the one hand the United States talks of an equitable international order, but on the other hand its duplicity has reached a point where it is not delivering things for which it has already received payment. To add insult to injury, it is also collecting storage fees for the aircraft. The United States exhibited the same level of mendacity when it refused to deliver military hardware to Iran after receiving payment from that country.

Washington's attitude toward Pakistan has never been friendly. They have actually been serving their own interests under the guise of friendship with us. Washington's discriminatory attitude toward our nuclear program is no secret. The United States also objects to our military expenditures. How can relations be amicable under these circumstances? Our government must settle these issues with the United States unambiguously. If the United States intends to victimize Pakistan through the application of the Pressler Amendment, then how can its failure to deliver goods after having received payment be interpreted? [sentence as published] What could provide better proof of the blatant trickery on the part of the United States than the fact—reported in the press—that only low-ranking U.S. officials met with the Pakistani delegation that went to discuss the delivery of the military hardware. A senior U.S. official gave only 15 minutes to the delegation, saying he had to attend an important meeting.

The U.S. intransigence has reached a point where Washington not only refuses to deliver the military equipment, but also will not allow the sale of these goods to another country in order to recoup the payments already made. Pakistan has paid $1.258 billion from the national exchequer. Either the money should be returned or the goods should be delivered. If the issue is not settled in a straightforward manner, we should contact the International Court of Justice. Talk of good relations is nothing but a subterfuge. We must learn lessons from the bitter experiences we have had on several occasions in the past.

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Sri Lanka

LTTE Offers Truce for Mutilation Probe

BK2111111294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 21 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Tiger rebels have offered a fresh ceasefire in exchange for an inquiry into the mutilation of a top guerrilla agent killed by security forces, defence sources said Monday [21 November].

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said through their clandestine radio network late Sunday that they will halt attacks if the government probed the beheading of the agent, shot dead by security forces last week.

Defence sources said that the Tigers were smarting after they lost their self-styled Lieutenant Colonel Malli, gunned down by army commandos in the northeastern Weli Oya region. "They said they will observe a ceasefire if the military will hold an inquiry into the beheading of Malli," a defence source said quoting an intercepted rebel radio broadcast.

Military officials said commandos had gunned down Malli and another Tiger cadre outside army defence line at Welioya and troops chopped off the head of the intelligence agent to be taken to the camp for identification. The incident prompted the LTTE to call off their earlier ceasefire a day before it was due to expire Saturday. The government, however, ignored the unilateral truce and kept up attacks against the LTTE.

The Tigers are leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Tamils Urge Abolition of Presidential System

BK2011114194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several mainstream Tamil political parties highlighted many shortcomings in the present executive presidential system of government. They claimed that this Constitution was one of the reasons for the escalation in the northeast crisis. Against this background, certain Tamil parties have urged abolishing the executive presidency and others are lobbying to reduce the powers of the executive presidency. Political analysts described this situation as a special trend because the major political parties which represent minority communities have changed their stand on the country's Constitution, which is all over considered as an instrument to protect the rights of minorities.

These Tamil political parties have already made representations to the special parliamentary select committee appointed to review the country's Constitution. The political wing of the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam]—the DPLF [Democratic People's Liberation Front]—in its suggestions categorically states that the executive presidency should be abolished. The EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] was of the view that this system has pressurized the Tamil speaking people in the island. The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution was a clear indication to this effect. The other organizations point out that the armed struggle in the north was transformed into a war under the executive presidential system. A senior leader of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] told the SLBC that his party will submit its proposals within the next two weeks. He added that their suggestions will be in agreement with the wishes of the people in the north and east who voted in large numbers to express their opposition to the present Constitution.

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